

PAPON: JUDGMENT DAY

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Paris, Friday, April 3, 1998

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Maurice Papon before hearing the verdict went against him.

Pessimism in Japan Hits Asian Markets

Sony Chief Likens Economic Situation To Eve of the Depression Under Hoover

By Sheryl W. Gunne
New York Times Service

TOKYO — As Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto arrived in London on Thursday to discuss with world leaders how to solve Asia's crisis, the bad economic news in Japan sent markets tumbling around the region.

At the Asia-Europe Meeting, Mr. Hashimoto is expected to pledge that Japan will try to help Asian economies recover by first bolstering its own economy. But many economists say that Japan is now teetering on the verge of recession, if it is not already in one, and that any real economic recovery will be elusive unless radical steps are taken.

A closely watched quarterly survey of business sentiment released Thursday, the *tankan* report, was much gloomier than expected and reflected some of the most disappointing trends in more than two decades. In reaction, Japanese share prices fell 3.3 percent, their biggest tumble of the year.

The Bank of Japan, which conducts the survey, said it would now have to examine whether or not the economy was in a recession.

The bad news of the report was reinforced by Norio Ohga, chairman of the Sony Corporation, who lashed out at Japanese politicians and painted a grim picture of the nation's prospects should policymakers fail to dramatically alter the course of the economy.

"Japan's economy is on the verge of collapse," Mr. Ohga said.

He elaborated on the comment, saying that while the slight eight-tenths of a percentage point decline in gross domestic product that many economists had predicted for this year might not seem like much, it could kick off a "negative spiral" that would ultimately drive the rest of the world into recession.

Mr. Ohga had unusually harsh words for Japan's politicians, repeatedly comparing Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to Herbert Hoover on the eve of the Depression. "They are very domestic in their thinking," he said. "But we are now part of the global system." He said the year ahead for Sony would be "very severe."

Economic data released in the last few days show that unemployment has reached a 45-year high, household spending is dropping, and the nation's propensity to spend is at its lowest since 1970. Industrial production is also sliding, and corporate profits are expected to fall.

"We have entered a downturn — things are going to get nasty very

See JAPAN, Page 12

Asian Crisis Scars Profits At Europe's Blue-Chips

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — The mounting cost of Asia's economic crisis in Europe became clearer Thursday as a succession of blue-chip companies, including Siemens AG and Deutsche Bank AG, added up the toll taken by the region's abrupt slowdown.

"Operating profits are not satisfactory," said Kolf Breuer, Deutsche

Bank's chief executive, citing both the "exceptional effects arising from the crisis in Asia" and shortcomings in the bank's internal structure.

Releasing the bank's financial report for 1997, Mr. Breuer said Germany's largest bank had set aside 1.4 billion Deutsche marks (\$755.8 million) in provisions to cover risky loans in Indonesia, South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia. The volume of those risk provisions, which more than tripled the bank's total risk provisions from the previous year, contributed to a drop of more than 50 percent in the bank's 1997 net profit.

ING Groep NV, a Dutch banking group, said Thursday that turmoil in Asia had prompted it to allocate 500 million guilders (\$239.5 million) in provisions for Asia. Despite the setbacks in Asia, ING managed to report a 24 percent increase in 1997 net profit but said the uncertainties in Asia made it difficult to make a forecast for the current year.

"It is still too early to make a firm profit forecast, in view of, among other factors, the developments in Asia," the Dutch bank said.

Newswand Prices

Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	LL 3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	16 Dh
Cameroun	1,600 CFA	Catar	10.00 QF
Egypt	£E 5.50	Réunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10 SF
Gabon	1,100 CFA	Senegal	100 CFA
Italy	2,800 Lire	Spain	225 Ptas
Ivory Coast	1,250 CFA	Tunisia	1,250 Dn
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
Kuwait	.700 Fils	U.S. M.	(\$1.20)

See BANK, Page 12

AGENDA

'89 China Protester to Be Freed, U.S. Says

China has agreed to release a noted dissident, Wang Dan, for medical reasons, and send him into exile, according to senior U.S. officials. The officials said the release was

part of a deal after Washington eased its stance on China's human rights policies. Refusing to confirm the news, China said prisoners who met medical guidelines could be paroled. Page 6.

The Dollar

New York Thursday @ 3 P.M. previous close

DM 1.8538 1.8524

Pound 1.6635 1.6712

Yen 133.45 133.675

FF 6.2121 6.2065

The Dow

New York Thursday @ 3 P.M. previous close

+113.59 8981.91 8888.32

S&P 500

change Thursday @ 3 P.M. previous close

+11.59 1118.74 1108.15

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After the Surprise, Renewed Determination

• Legal wisdom about Jones v. Clinton was that it was a weak case, but one that would most likely survive the effort to have it dismissed. Page 3.

dumped into the public domain accusing the president of sexual adventures with other women, from a former Miss America to an old Arkansas classmate to the woman whose story first endangered Mr. Clinton's political career in 1992, Gennifer Flowers.

Mr. Starr's investigators continue to examine this material, attempting to determine not simply whether claims of sexual activity between Mr. Clinton and other women are true, but whether the president and his allies have engaged in a pattern of

obstruction both in the Jones case and in the longer and still unresolved investigations into Arkansas land deals, missing legal records, the dismissal of the White House travel office and other matters.

These are serious matters, and Mr. Starr's office was quick to issue a statement Wednesday asserting that Judge Wright's ruling would have no direct effect on his investigations. But the ruling from Little Rock, Arkansas, will put even

See BATTLE, Page 3

With Ruling in Germany, Euro Clears Final Hurdle

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

on May 2-3 will announce that 11 nations should become founding members of the Economic and Monetary Union.

BERLIN — Germany's highest court removed the last major obstacle to the creation of a single European currency by ruling Thursday that two challenges to block its introduction were groundless.

The plaintiffs, who included four prominent professors, argued that substituting an untested European money for the strong Deutsche mark would violate the German Constitution, which stipulates the people's basic right to a stable currency.

The Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe said responsibility for such a decision rested with government and Parliament, not the judiciary branch, and called the plaintiffs' petition "clearly unfounded."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl welcomed the court's finding and said the way was now clear to introduce, next January, the first Continental currency since the days of the Roman Empire.

The German Parliament is expected to give overwhelming approval to the currency plan this month, and a summit meeting of leaders of the European Union

See EURO, Page 12

10-Year Term Ordered for War Crimes

Career French Civil Servant, 87, Guilty of Complicity With Nazis

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

BORDEAUX — In a historic judgment on the role that French administrators in German-occupied territory played in the Holocaust during World War II, a court found Maurice Papon, a career French civil servant, guilty.

Three judges and nine jurors wrestled for 19 hours over their verdict after a six-month trial before finding Mr. Papon guilty of complicity in Nazi crimes against humanity because he turned Jews over to the Germans in occupied Bordeaux.

The charges stemmed from the deportation of more than 1,500 Jews from southwest France to their deaths in the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1942 and 1943.

The criminal court of the Gironde region, where he worked as a functionary in the wartime collaborationist regime in Vichy half a century ago, handed down its findings Thursday morning.

The court imposed a 10-year prison sentence, with deprivation of civil rights, on the 87-year-old Mr. Papon. Prosecutors had asked for a 20-year term.

He will remain free while he appeals.

Mr. Papon, a former prefect of police in Paris and national budget minister when the charges first came to light 17 years ago, was furiously unapologetic for his actions as a young civil servant. He also was forceful in his defense throughout the 94 days of his trial, twice delayed by his bouts with illness.

"By finding me guilty, you would at the

same time discredit the very notion of a crime against humanity, which is aimed at absolute monsters like Hitler and Pol Pot," he lectured his three judges and nine jurors before they began deliberations on Wednesday.

In 1942 and 1943, Mr. Papon was the second-highest civil servant in the bureaucracy around Bordeaux and thus became the highest-ranking French civilian official ever to be tried on war crimes charges.

His actions, he said during the trial, were of a civil servant trying to do his job conscientiously in a terrible time — a victim, not a perpetrator.

But it was precisely that unquestioning kind of bureaucratic obedience to criminal and immoral orders that made the Holocaust murders of Jews possible, French prosecutors argued, and for the first time

since the war they put a French bureaucrat on trial for being an accessory to it.

Jews and some lawyers for the survivors faulted the verdict for absolving Mr. Papon of the charge of knowingly furthering systematic plans for the extermination of the Jews by officially cooperating with the German occupation authorities.

Defenders of the idea that Vichy was a lesser evil that spared France and its 350,000 Jews from even worse fates at the hands of the Germans denounced Mr. Papon's condemnation as an insult to the memory of the Resistance he also claimed to have served.

Mr. Papon could die within 10 years, and Thursday, holding his chin in his hands,

See PAPON, Page 4

Relief in Clinton Camp as Lawsuit Fails

A Costly Victory For President And the Nation

By Dan Balz
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The decision of Judge Susan Webber Wright to dismiss the Paula Jones lawsuit instantly reshaped the battlefield between President Bill Clinton and his accusers, and it will significantly complicate the work of the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, and Republicans in Congress who have been contemplating impeachment proceedings against the president.

Time and again, Mr. Clinton has proven his political resilience in the face of accusations of personal or ethical impropriety. But on Wednesday, Judge Wright gave the president something he has never enjoyed in the long struggle with his opponents: a clear-cut legal victory and an escape from the sensational headlines that would have accompanied a trial later this spring.

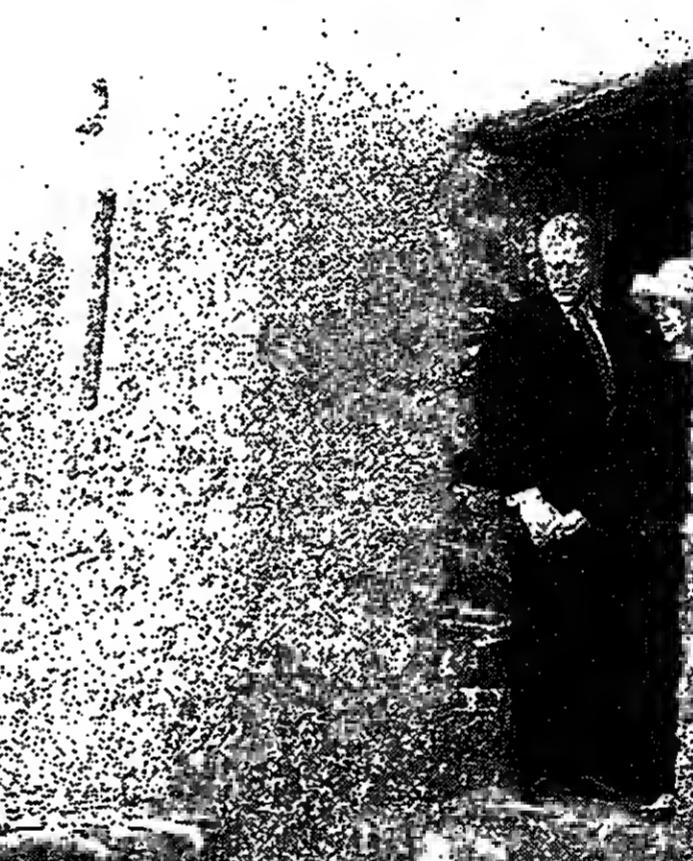
And yet victory comes at an enormous price. For a woman who may never see the inside of a courtroom in her battle against the president, Mrs. Jones has inflicted considerable damage on Mr. Clinton, and her lawsuit has had an indelible impact on the American political system and on other institutions in American life.

Her lawsuit has provided the grist for the most serious allegations still facing the president, those of perjury and obstruction of justice.

Without Mrs. Jones, there would be no Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern who alleged affair with the president — and a similarly unproven claim that the president or his friend, Vernon Jordan Jr., may have urged her to lie about it — remains at the heart of Mr. Starr's Whitewater investigation.

Without Mrs. Jones, there would be no Kathleen Willey, whose claim that the president made an unwanted sexual advance against her in the Oval Office suite was turned into a prime-time television moment of high drama, only to become clouded by conflicting information, like so much else in that has involved the president's personal life.

And without Mrs. Jones, there would not have been the flood of depositions



Mr. Clinton and his wife, Hillary, on Thursday at the house on Goree Island, Senegal, where slaves were held before being sent to the Americas. Page 2.

Judge Dismisses Jones Action on Sex Harassment

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton wrapped up a six-nation tour of Africa and headed for home Thursday politically bolstered and personally relieved by a federal judge's decision to throw out Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit.

Judge Susan Webber Wright of the U.S. District Court in Little Rock, Arkansas, ruled Wednesday that Mrs. Jones and her lawyers had presented no evidence to support her claims of emotional distress or retribution on the job resulting from her alleged 1991 hotel room encounter with Mr. Clinton.

"The plaintiffs' allegations fall far short of the rigorous standards for establishing a claim of outrage under Arkansas law," Judge Wright said in the ruling, adding, "The court has determined that her quid pro quo and hostile work environment sexual harassment claim are without merit and warrant a grant of summary judgment."

While Mr. Clinton and his lawyers had long argued that Mrs. Jones had no legitimate legal case, Judge Wright's ruling shocked both sides. Her dismissal of the case without a jury trial was an immense political and legal victory for the president, who had unsuccessfully petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to delay the case until after he leaves the White House. But it did not end his legal troubles, because it had no direct bearing on the separate criminal investigation by the Whitewater special counsel, Kenneth Starr.

A grand jury in Washington resumed hearing witnesses in that proceeding Thursday morning, even as Mr. Clinton and his entourage in Senegal were expressing their relief and gratification at Judge Wright's ruling.

"Obviously, I'm pleased with the decision, and I think the judge's opinion speaks for itself," Mr. Clinton said as he prepared to deliver a major speech on U.S.-Africa relations on Goree Island, a former slave-trading port in Senegal.

The most important thing, he said, is

See CLINTON, Page 3

Le Pen's Rights Lifted For Assault on Leftist

A French court convicted the far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen of assaulting a Socialist politician and stripped him of his civil rights for two years. The verdict on Thursday could bar him from running for the European Parliament next year. Page 4.

IMF and Indonesia Coming to Terms

As Indonesia inched closer Thursday to an accord with the International Monetary Fund on a \$43 billion assistance package, analysts described the amended deal as far more acceptable to President Suharto. Page 13.

With Ruling in Germany, Euro Clears Final Hurdle

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — Germany's highest court removed the last major obstacle to the creation of a single European currency by ruling Thursday that two challenges to block its introduction were groundless.

The plaintiffs, who included four prominent professors, argued that substituting an untested European money for the strong Deutsche mark would violate the German Constitution, which stipulates the people's basic right to a stable currency.

The Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe said responsibility for such a decision rested with government and Parliament, not the judiciary branch, and called the plaintiffs' petition "clearly unfounded."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl welcomed the court's finding and said the way was now clear to introduce, next January, the first Continental currency since the days of the Roman Empire.

The German Parliament is expected to give overwhelming approval to the currency plan this month, and a summit meeting of leaders of the European Union

EUROPE

Papon Verdict Reflects France's Tumult Over Its Wartime Role

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

BORDEAUX — The jury that convicted Maurice Papon on Thursday morning of crimes against humanity delivered a verdict and a 10-year prison sentence that reflected the muddled nature of the six-month trial and the conflicting feelings of the French people about their country's awkward wartime role.

The three French judges and nine civilian jurors who formed the jury and conferred all night reached what was in fact a mixed conclusion about Mr. Papon's behavior as a senior public servant in Bordeaux during World War II.

Ignoring Mr. Papon's emotional plea at the end of the trial — "I am either guilty or innocent. It's all or nothing," he declared — the jury rendered a guilty verdict but followed it with a light sentence.

In what turned out to be 19 hours of

deliberations, the jury had to give "yes" or "no" answers to a list of 768 "questions," similar to criminal counts, about what Mr. Papon ordered and what he knew from 1942 to 1944.

Mr. Papon's accusers argued, and the jurors apparently believed, that as a young, ambitious Vichy official in Bordeaux, he routinely and knowingly signed off on roundups of Jewish men, women and children who were carried on train convoys to the crematoria at the Auschwitz death camp in Poland.

At least eight of the 12 jurors found him guilty on several hundred counts of knowing complicity in the arrest and imprisonment of 72 Bordeaux-area Jews, whose individual cases against Papon were brought by surviving relatives.

But a majority of the jurors were not convinced that Mr. Papon was guilty of any of the victims' subsequent murders in the Nazi gas chambers where they

ended their train journeys from Bordeaux. The defense apparently argued persuasively that Mr. Papon was unaware of the fate intended for the passengers on the convoys organized by French administrators — that Mr. Papon believed, as did the deportees themselves, that they were bound for the hardship of labor camps.

Mr. Papon may have escaped a murder conviction, but under French law he is still guilty of crimes against humanity — for complicity in the roundups.

The 10-year prison sentence the jury imposed was half the 20 years requested by the prosecution. Some of the civil plaintiffs to the case agreed that it was an appropriate penalty, given the determination of limited guilt and Mr. Papon's age and chronic heart ailments.

Other observers, including the Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal, continued to insist that for such crimes nothing less

than a life sentence was commensurate. In any case, judicial appeals that Mr. Papon's lawyers immediately vowed to pursue make it unlikely that he will serve a day of his sentence.

The trial took on special resonance because Mr. Papon will probably be the last French person to stand trial for a role in the nation's darkest modern hour — a devastating military defeat and surrender to Germany, and four years of humiliating quasi-occupation. The period of submission took the name of Vichy, the mountain spa city where a compliant French political class established a servile administration under German supervision.

One of Mr. Papon's wartime responsibilities, as the second-ranking French official in Bordeaux, was the local office of "Jewish Questions" in which French officials enforced a system of repression designed by the Nazis.

Mr. Papon's chief lawyer insisted that those matters had nothing to do with Nazi death camps. "Apartheid, yes," Jean-Marc Varaut declared in his closing comments. "Extermination, no."

The jury apparently agreed with this distinction. Mr. Papon's conviction, more than three months after it was expected, also landed at a sensitive spot in France's charged political and ideological life.

The far-right National Front scored sensational tactical triumphs after regional elections March 15 and gave itself a new lease on life. Its xenophobic repertoire includes an overt anti-Semitism, notably in the party leader Jean-Marie Le Pen's recently repeated belief that the gas chambers of the Holocaust would be remembered as a "detail of history."

Many in French public life feared that an acquittal of Mr. Papon would constitute an embarrassing echo of that robust minority of French opinion.

PAPON: Guilty of World War II Crimes

Continued from Page 1

Papon because of his poor health and because of the death of his 88-year-old wife last week.

The trial was long delayed by reluctance by French leaders to dig up the past, particularly since Mr. Papon's claims to have cooperated with the Resistance to the Germans and to the collaborationist French regime were backed by some Resistance leaders.

His leading lawyer, Jean-Marc Vaut, said he would take the case to the Court of Appeals in Paris and to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg if necessary, calling the verdict "neither fish nor fowl."

In asking for a 20-year sentence, the chief prosecutor, Henri Desclaux, argued that "Maurice Papoo was an indispensable cog and played a key role, but he wasn't the instigator and he wasn't the only accomplice."

Mr. Papon's immediate superior, Maurice Sabatier, and other officials of the French state set up in Vichy after the German victory in 1940 were also investigated but died before the inquiry could be completed.

The principal French wartime collaborationist leaders, including the head of state, Marshal Philippe Petain, and his prime minister, Pierre Laval, either died in prison or were executed for treason after the war.

Judge Castagnede, 53, two associate judges, and nine lay jurors aged 26 to 63 considered 764 questions relating to 7 specific charges involving the deaths or deportation of 75 Jews, both French and foreign-born, in 1942 and 1943.

Under the Napoleonic Code, judges supervise the jurors and vote with them in reaching a verdict, with 8 out of 12 votes required to convict on any charge.

Though Mr. Papon argued that he should not be tried for the crimes of Vichy, part of his defense was that Vichy had spared the French, including Jews, even worse cruelties by the Germans.

He accepted a post as secretary-general of the regional prefecture in 1942 because, as he told the court Wednesday, "The civil service was the only rampart the people had against the occupying forces — the only one."

Whether this was Vichy's true nature and, if so, whether French civil servants obedient to Vichy's orders had made themselves accessories to Nazi war crimes, were questions that underlay the entire trial.

Those same questions have been gnawing at France's image of itself for most of the last half-century, tortured by postwar political arrangements that allowed many Vichy officials, like Mr. Papon, to rise to powerful positions.

Not until 1995 did a French leader, President Jacques Chirac, publicly acknowledge that France itself bore responsibility for Vichy's decisions to round up Jews and other political prisoners for the Germans during the occupation.

Of the 330,000 Jews living in France before 1940, a total of 74,721 were deported by the Germans and almost all of those died.

Thursday's decision, not accompanied by any kind of explanation or exposition from the court, was far from a blanket acceptance of all 764 charges that had been developed by prosecutors. Their 16-year investigation was plagued by lack of documentation and a dearth of surviving witnesses to a dark part of the past that most French people would prefer to forget.

The court found Mr. Papon guilty of complicity in German crimes for using his authority as secretary-general to satisfy German demands for the illegal arrests and detentions of hundreds of French and foreign-born Jews, although not all 1,560 named in the original indictment.

And it ruled that he bore responsibility for authorizing five of the eight rail transfers that the prosecution charged he helped organize them from Bordeaux to Drancy, north of Paris, from where the Germans shipped the victims to Auschwitz, but apparently did not find enough evidence to tie him with the three others.

Nevertheless, these findings alone established his complicity with crimes against humanity under French law, establishing the criminal link that survivors of the Holocaust had sought between German war crimes and functionaries of the Vichy regime.

The court found Mr. Papon not guilty of the charge of deliberately and knowingly participating by these actions in a systematic Nazi plan for the murder of millions of Jews.

His defense tried, apparently successfully, to show that the Germans kept the full scope of their plans for the Holocaust secret from the French authorities.

Three leading Jewish organizations in France deplored the 10-year sentence as not commensurate with the crime. One, the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France, said the sentence had shown leniency to Mr.

Historian and Publisher Fined

A Paris court Thursday leveled heavy fines on a historian and his publisher for suggesting that two acclaimed heroes of the Resistance in World War II secretly helped the Nazis. Reuters reported.

The court found that Gerard Chauvy, the historian, and Francis Esmenard, of the Albin Michel publishing house, "committed a clearly defined act of libel" in the book "Aubrac, Lyon 1943" published last year.

The book concerns the actions of Lucie and Raymond Aubrac, leading Resistance figures from an early stage of the 1940-1944 German occupation of France. The couple are now aged 83 and 85.

Mr. Chauvy was ordered to pay a 60,000 franc (\$10,000) fine while Mr. Esmenard received a 100,000 franc fine.

They were also ordered to pay 200,000 francs in damages to the Aubracs.

Court Convicts Le Pen of Assault and Lifts His Rights

Compiled by Our Staff From Dupuis Inc.

PARIS — The far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen was convicted Thursday of assaulting a Socialist woman politician and stripped of his civil rights for two years.

The decision by a court in Versailles means Mr. Le Pen could be ineligible to run next year in European Parliament elections, important ones for his National Front party if it is to continue to gain influence.

Under the ruling, he could also be stripped of his current electoral mandates as a European Parliament member and a councilor in the Provence-Alpes-Cotes d'Azur region of southern France.

In addition, he could be barred from voting for two years.

But Mr. Le Pen, who won 15 percent of the vote in the 1995 presidential election, was widely expected to appeal the verdict.

He has 10 days in which to file an appeal. In that case, the measures against him could not be put into effect during the appeals process, which would be likely to take two years, possibly beyond the date of the next European election.

The verdict included a suspended three-month prison sentence and a fine of 23,700 francs (\$3,700).

The ruling was the latest blow to Mr. Le Pen's anti-immigrant party, which President Jacques Chirac recently assailed as "racist and xenophobic."

Following nationwide regional council elections last month that left the National Front with a deciding role in the choice of several regional presidents, Mr. Chirac has been consulting with the leaders of mainstream parties with a view to revising the electoral system to help prevent further inroads by Mr. Le Pen's party.

During the two-day trial, which ended Feb. 20, Mr. Le Pen denied the



Jean-Marie Le Pen leaving the European Parliament in Strasbourg after he was told of the verdict Thursday.

charges against him and denounced the court as being "at the orders of authoritarians."

The May 30 incident occurred during a campaign stop by Mr. Le Pen in the working-class town of Mantes-la-Jolie, west of Paris, where he was lending his daughter, Marie-Caroline, support in her bid for a legislative seat.

Mr. Le Pen, 69, a former paratrooper, scuffled with a handful of people protesting his presence, among them the Socialist Party candidate, Annette Peulvast-Bergal.

In its ruling, the court cited "the extreme seriousness" of the incident, saying that it was all the more troubling "because it was committed by one elected official against another."

Mr. Le Pen also was convicted of kicking two anti-Front protesters and verbally abusing a third. He denied any wrongdoing, asserting that he had been provoked.

Mr. Le Pen warned in March that his supporters might revolt if the court barred him from public office.

He told the daily *Le Parisien* that such a sentence would amount to his

"civil death."

"This obviously carries a considerable risk as far as civil peace is concerned," Mr. Le Peo said.

"It is an outrage to citizens who are supposed to freely choose their representatives."

The Versailles court acquitted Mr. Le Pen's chief bodyguard but sentenced three of his other bodyguards to 3,000 francs fine for assault.

Three anti-Le Pen demonstrators were fined for their part in the fracas, while three others were cleared of charges.

(Reuters, AP, AFP)

For Greece and the Euro, 2001 or Bust

Fearing a Minor Role, Athens Seeks Reforms

By Celestine Bohlen
New York Times Service

ATHENS — Greece never had a prayer of joining the first round of countries eligible for Europe's common currency, so its exclusion from the list of 11 countries ready to adopt the euro next year was not an issue here.

Instead, the question is whether Greece, despite its belated efforts to trim its debts and shrink its overindulged state sector, is going to make it into the euro club in 2001 — a goal firmly held by the Socialist government of Prime Minister Costas Simitis and cherished by many Greeks.

For Greece, joining the euro is much like the dream many members of the former Soviet bloc have of joining NATO or the European Union: The tangible benefits of being admitted into the charmed circle may be debatable, but being left out is hell.

"It is already a negative thing to be out of the 11," said Dimitri Papadimoulis, spokesman for the Coalition of the Left, an opposition party. "But if we stay out after 2001, the cost will be painful. Now, we are the European country in the Balkans. Then, we would be another Balkan country in the Balkans."

With the devaluation in March of the drachma by 14 percent — the Greek currency is now part of a European exchange-rate structure that is a pre-requisite for future euro members — the Simitis government is convinced that Greece is on its way.

Finance Minister Yiannis Papantoniou says Greece has accepted prodding from its European partners to do in 18 months what it had already promised to do in three years: tackle its bloated public sector with the privatization of 11 publicly held companies, including several state banks, by the end of 1999.

"We have a mutual interest in succeeding," Mr. Papantoniou said, speaking of Greece's pledges to the other members of the European Union. "At this point, I don't see major risks. We are on the right way."

But here and in the rest of Europe, there is lingering skepticism about the ability of the Simitis government — heir to the left-wing political machine built by the late Andreas Papandreou — to meet the harsh criteria set down for euro membership and still survive politically.

As the poorest country in the European Union, with a per capita gross domestic product half that of Germany, an economy that is even more dependent on a corrupt and inefficient public sector than many former Communist countries and a reputation for squandering European Union subsidies, Greece is far from assured of meeting

foreign currencies. Mostly, the doubts have to do with the government's ability to follow through on its promises.

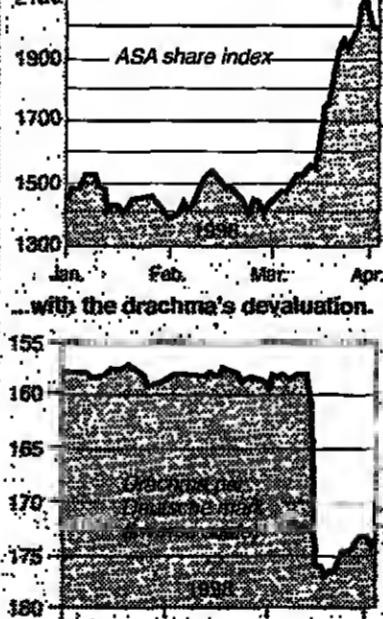
"Verbally they are doing extremely well," said Stefanos Manos, a former finance minister. "But I am not convinced this government will reach the euro criteria in time. The social base that elects this government is in the public sector. Simitis will not cut off the branch he is sitting on."

The Simitis government has scored notable success in bringing its fiscal affairs into order. Inflation, which was in double digits a few years ago, was down to 4.3 percent a year in February, while Greece's budget deficit, which was 13.9 percent of gross domestic product in 1993, the widest in the EU, fell to 4.2 percent of GDP in 1997, well on the way to the 3 percent level set for entry to the euro.

But many analysts see the final test of Greece's eligibility to join the euro — to take place in the summer of 2000 — as one that is as political as it is economic. "If we don't make it by 2001, we will never make it, and Greece will be pushed out of Europe," Mr. Manos said. "Greece will have proved itself to be too different from the rest of Europe."

Greece Eyes 2001

Greek shares soared...



Source: Bloomberg

Blair Plays Down Hitch in Ulster Peace Talks Go On as Dublin Police Seize Half-Ton Car Bomb Bound for Britain

Reuters

LONDON — Britain played down talk of a rift between London and Dublin over the Northern Ireland peace negotiations on Thursday as the two governments entered the final week of talks at odds over cross-border institutions.

The pace of talks quickened as the Irish said that a car bomb they intercepted on its way to Britain was the work of republican terrorists and, at 980 pounds (445 kilograms), was among the biggest bombs they had ever found.

Prime Ministers Tony Blair of Britain and Bertie Ahern of Ireland met for three hours Wednesday over dinner but could agree only that "more work needs to be done" by their two governments.

A spokesman for Mr. Blair said that there was no reason for "doom and gloom" and quoted the prime minister as having told his cabinet on Thursday that he was still cautiously optimistic.

He denied that there was a real problem between the two governments over cross-border institutions to link Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic — a key demand both for Dublin and for nationalists in the British province.

David Trimble, leader of the largest pro-B

Role

UN Investigator Backs Germany On Scientology

New York Times Service

GENEVA — A United Nations special investigator has rejected accusations by the Scientology movement that the German government is using Nazi tactics of persecution against it.

"This comparison between modern Germany and Nazi Germany is so shocking as to be meaningless and pernicious," the investigator, Abdelfatah Amor, said in issuing his report Wednesday. The report counters criticisms made by Scientologists and by the U.S. State Department in its annual human rights report.

Mr. Amor, a law professor at Tunis University, compiled his report on religious intolerance and discrimination in Germany by looking not only at Scientology but also at other religions, including Islam. He was appointed by the UN Commission on Human Rights, which is holding its annual meeting here.

Emphasizing that he had spoken with government officials and with Scientology officials, Mr. Amor said the German debate over religious beliefs and freedom was overly emotional. "There has been too much passion and exaggeration by all sides," he said.

German officials have characterized Scientology as a commercial enterprise or a "psycho group" that manages people's lives, instead of a religion. This has denied Scientologists the legal and tax advantages enjoyed by established religions.

In June 1997, German officials placed Scientologists under national surveillance for a year. Scientologists protested that such a step was unjustified without evidence linking their movement to criminal activity.

The group says the German government has encouraged the blacklisting and boycotting of its members by requiring individuals to disavow connections with Scientology or its teachings.

Since November 1996, candidates for civil posts in the Bavarian government must state on a questionnaire any connection or belief in Scientology, but are not automatically banned from jobs.

In his report, Mr. Amor said German officials had insisted that the key question was not whether Scientology is a religion, but whether it respects the law.

Government measures, he said, are "simply designed to protect citizens and the liberal democratic order," by ensuring that the Scientologists do not, among other actions, use "immoral and illegal techniques of psychological manipulation and repression."



An Israeli soldier firing at Palestinian stone-throwers on Thursday in Bethlehem. Other clashes hit Ramallah.

Beirut Cabinet Rebuffs Israel, Citing Sovereignty Over South

COURTESY OF THE STAFF NEWS PAPER

BEIRUT — The Lebanese government on Thursday formally rejected an Israeli proposal for a conditional troop withdrawal from southern Lebanon as a "violation" of its sovereignty.

"This offer is part of a diplomatic and political campaign that violates the sovereignty of Lebanon by trying to impose security arrangements rejected by all the Lebanese," Information Minister Bassem Sabeah said.

Mr. Sabeah said after a cabinet meeting that Israel "wants the Lebanese Army to replace the Israeli occupation army, which contradicts Resolution 425 that does not mention conditions."

UN Security Council Resolution 425, adopted in 1978, calls on Israel to withdraw troops "forthwith" from southern Lebanon, where it controls a 15-kilometer-wide strip along the border.

On Wednesday, Israel's security cabinet adopted the 20-year-old UN resolution but called on Beirut to enter into negotiations on security arrangements to guarantee that the area would not be used by guerrilla groups to attack Israel.

Lebanon and Syria — the de facto power in Lebanon where Damascus has 35,000 soldiers — both dismissed the

Israeli proposal as a political maneuver. Mr. Sabeah said the Beirut government also rejected the Israeli proposal to integrate members of the Jewish state's proxy South Lebanon Army within the ranks of the Lebanese Army.

"This is a frank invitation to punish the resistance and reward those who helped Israel in its occupation," he said.

The Lebanese foreign minister, Faris Bouez, speaking in Rome, called Israel's offer a bluff and said his country would not be pushed into negotiations on security.

"It is a very clear bluff that consists in getting the impression to international public opinion that Israel is ready to implement this decision when many conditions are added," Mr. Bouez said.

"The real goal is to destroy the 425 resolution," he added.

Mr. Bouez said the decision was a ploy by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel to press Lebanon into negotiating security arrangements and guarantees.

"Netanyahu is trying to push us to sit at the table and negotiate," Mr. Bouez after meeting with Pope John Paul II and Italian government officials during a



Foreign Minister Faris Bouez in Rome, called Israel's offer a bluff.

visit to Italy. "This will give him an excuse to say the 425 is not a decision that can be automatically implemented."

Brushing aside Arab skepticism, a senior Israeli official said in Jerusalem on Thursday that the offer was both sincere and achievable.

"Israel is candidly trying to find a way for Lebanon to recover its sovereignty," said Uri Lubrani, the Defense Ministry's veteran coordinator for activities in Lebanon. (AFP, Reuters)

Bomb-Maker Is Buried Amid Ramallah Unrest

By Doug Struck

Washington Post Service

RAMALLAH, West Bank — The violence that was the life work of Muhiyaddin Sharif seemed likely to feed on his death as thousands of Palestinians chanted for revenge Thursday at the funeral of the bomb-maker they believe was killed by Israel.

Mr. Sharif, 32, was carried to his grave by a grim and silent crowd, silent but for the rhythmic chants of "Bomb Tel Aviv" and "Kill the Israeli murderers."

Israeli authorities continued to insist that Israel had nothing to do with the death of Mr. Sharif, who they say engineered at least two terrorist bombings. Palestinian police say he was shot and killed and propped near a car that was exploded Sunday to make it appear he had blown himself up.

But the Israeli protestations fell on deaf ears among Palestinians, already angry over what they see as Israel's failure to fulfill promises of peace, and resentful of the continuing toll taken by Israeli forces. In recent weeks they have seen three Palestinian workers killed in their truck, a 13-year-old stone-thrower shot in the head, and now Mr. Sharif, killed boldly within Palestinian-controlled Ramallah.

The violent wing of Hamas, sworn enemy of Israel, vowed Thursday it would avenge Mr. Sharif's death just as it had that of his predecessor, the master bomb-maker Yashay Ayash. His assassination in January, 1996, was answered with four suicide explosions that killed 59 people.

"They paid with 60 coffins for Ayash," said a Hamas leaflet, "and we are telling them now to prepare for more."

Many on both sides believe the threats. Israel said Thursday that it had increased security at its checkpoints. And among the Palestinians, the grim mood at Mr. Sharif's funeral seemed as much in resignation to the expected violence that would further seal the peace process and inevitably lead to harder times for Palestinians.

Members of the Palestinian Authority met with Hama political leaders in Gaza to urge that there be no retaliation, according to Israeli television. But the Palestinian Legislative Council accused Israel of the killing in a statement that urged worldwide pressure on Israel to stop acts of "international terrorism."

"I hope the wisdom of our people will prevail and we will not be provoked into a miscalculation," said one of the Palestinian Authority ministers, Abdul Jawad Salch, as he watched the funeral.



"But I don't think the Palestinian police will be able to restrain the people."

Even as Mr. Sharif's body was being lowered into a grave and covered with wet, red soil, the mourners watched the conflict with Israel played out on the hill above the cemetery. Young men ran toward the Israeli settlement that towers over the Palestinian town. From the roofs of Pesagot, Israeli soldiers opened fire with tear gas and rubber-coated metal bullets as the youths drew near.

The mourners watched the impossible assault. Even if the youths scaled the hill, they faced a high security fence. As they drew close, they hurled rocks toward the fence. One boy stood at the foundation of a high house and faced the soldiers who ringed the roof above, throwing rocks in a vain gesture of defiance.

Israeli soldiers, who had clear targets, seemed unwilling Thursday to give the Palestinians another martyr, although several people were treated for wounds from rubber-coated metal slugs.

■ Netanyahu Warns on Reprisal

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that Israel would hold the Palestinian Authority responsible if Muslim militants launch suicide attacks to avenge Mr. Sharif's death. Reuters reported from Jerusalem.

In a speech to mayors from his Likud bloc in the town of Herzliya, Mr. Netanyahu again denied any Israeli involvement in the death. "We expect the Palestinian Authority to fight terror and not pin involvement or responsibility for the incident in Ramallah on our shoulders," he said, "because we're not involved."

U.S. Panel to Look for Holocaust Assets

Search of American Banks Is Partly to Defuse Backlash in Switzerland

By David E. Sanger
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration and Senator Alfonso D'Amato, the New York Republican who has led the investigations into wealth looted by Nazi Germany, have said they will set up a commission to determine if any Holocaust-era assets were still in American banks.

The investigation is to be carried out by a presidential advisory commission that Congress is expected to authorize next month. While the United States has pressed other nations to investigate whether their vaults still hold gold, art, jewelry and money from Holocaust victims, there has been no formal investigation in America.

"We can't very well hold ourselves out as the crusaders for justice if we don't look at our own financial institutions and what they did," Mr. D'Amato said Wednesday.

Stuart Eizenstat, undersecretary of state for economic affairs, said, "Now the time has come to look more closely at assets here at home, and to do so with sensitivity and urgency."

Setting up a commission is partly intended to defuse the political backlash in Switzerland to the American investigation into the activities of Swiss banks.

There is reason to suspect that significant Holocaust assets may have been moved in the United States: Many Swiss banks moved accounts to the United States during World War II to preserve them in the event of a German invasion. Most were moved back to Switzerland in 1945 and 1946, but records — and perhaps some assets — remain in the United States.

The investigations have found some evidence that Nazi gold passed through American hands. In 1950, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York melted down hundreds of gold bars bearing swastikas and recast them with the commercially acceptable stamp bearing the words "United States Assay Office."

At the time, according to memorandums released by the Federal Reserve last year, the Treasury knew that much of the gold — worth about \$23 million at the time and roughly 10 times that today — had been looted from the Netherlands and Belgium by German invaders.

Unlike three other major Swiss banks, the Swiss National Bank did not sign an agreement in March to compensate Holocaust victims whose assets were seized by Nazis and handled by banks in Switzerland.

BRIEFLY

Latvia Synagogue Is Bombed

RIGA, Latvia — The only synagogue in the Latvian capital was damaged in a predawn bombing Thursday, the second to hit it in three years. There were no reports of casualties or claims of responsibility.

Hours after the blast, the synagogue held its regular morning service. Afterward, Rabbi Mordechai Glazman said preparations for Passover would continue "to show our enemies we are not going to shut down and they are not going to disturb our holidays."

Prime Minister Guntars Krastin visited the synagogue and pledged that all damage would be repaired. (AP)

UN Inspects Key Site in Iraq

BAGHDAD — Winding down their first search of President Saddam Hussein's palaces, UN arms inspectors focused Thursday on the "most important site," a Baghdad palace that houses the offices of Iraq's power centers.

About 70 UN inspectors, watched by foreign diplomats, spent a second day at the Republican Palace, the last of the eight complexes that they have surveyed during the week.

Jayanthi Dhanapala, the head of the diplomatic corps, said the palace inspections could end in a few days. He described the site as "very much the seat of the government."

YEREVAN, Armenia — The defeated Armenian presidential candidate, Karen Demirchyan, said Thursday that fraud had cost him victory in Monday's run-off election.

But Mr. Demirchyan, who ran Armenia as its Soviet

Communist leader from 1974 to 1988, offered an olive branch to President-elect Robert Kocharyan by calling for national unity.

"We must not permit a split in society to occur, which could seriously hurt our country," Mr. Demirchyan said.

"Don't yield to provocations. Let's move away from election passions." (Reuters)

4th Hat in the Ring in Colombia

BOGOTA — A former foreign minister, Noemí Sanín, has announced her candidacy for the presidential election to be held in Colombia in May.

Mrs. Sanín is one of two independents bidding for the top job — the other is the former armed forces chief, General Harold Bedoya.

Mrs. Sanín is running in third place in opinion polls behind the candidate of the governing Liberal Party, Horacio Serpa, and President Ernesto Samper's hand-picked successor, the Conservative Party candidate Andrés Pastrana. (Reuters)

Chiapas Mediators Criticized

MEXICO CITY — The government has threatened to cast aside the independent committee mediating talks with the Zapatista rebels, accusing the group of favoring the rebels.

The action appears to be part of a strategy to pressure the Zapatista National Liberation Army by restricting independent groups that officials say have aided the rebels and prolonged turmoil in the southern state of Chiapas.

Federal officials were to meet Wednesday with representatives of the independent mediating panel. But an Interior Ministry official said the panel canceled the meeting at the last minute. (AP)

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China to Release a Tiananmen Dissident Leader, U.S. Officials Say

Wang Dan demonstrating in Tiananmen Square in May 1989. (The Associated Press)

By Steven Erlanger

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — China has agreed to release a noted dissident, Wang Dan, for medical reasons, and send him into exile, according to senior U.S. officials.

The release is part of an agreement by the United States last month to drop sponsorship of a resolution condemning China's human rights policies.

The U.S. officials confirmed the agreement for the release of Mr. Wang, which is expected to happen sometime before President Bill Clinton goes to China for a summit meeting in June. But they also said they were worried that premature publicity could harm the chances for Mr. Wang's release, since its timing is still under discussion with Beijing.

A White House spokesman, P.J. Crowley, refused to comment.

Mr. Wang, 28, was a student leader of the Tiananmen Square democracy movement, suppressed by the Chinese Army in 1989; and he served four years in prison for his role in the demonstrations. He was arrested again in May 1995, and is serving an 11-year prison sentence for "subversion."

Along with Wei Jingsheng, Mr. Wang has been at the top of the list of Chinese dissidents whom the Clinton administration has been trying to get released. Mr. Wei was released on medical grounds and went into exile Nov. 16, shortly after President Jiang Zemin came to Washington for a summit meeting with Mr. Clinton.

Until about a year ago Mr. Wang had rejected the idea of leaving China, fearing he would never be

allowed to return. But faced with the prospect of another decade in prison and with the entreaties of his family, Mr. Wang has changed his mind and accepted exile, according to human rights workers in China who asked not to be identified.

Chinese officials have insisted that Mr. Wang could be released only if he merit medical parole, and that a final decision must be left to the Chinese judiciary.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, Zhu Bangzao, did not respond directly when asked Thursday whether Mr. Wang was to be released, but said prisoners who met medical guidelines could be paroled. The Associated Press reported from Beijing.

But the release of Mr. Wang, like that of Mr. Wei, is clearly a political decision by the Chinese government and Communist Party, and may have been influenced by the relatively tepid reception Mr. Wei has received in exile, both from Western governments and Chinese democracy activists already abroad.

Mike Jendrzejczyk, the Washington director for Human Rights Watch Asia, said, "Releasing prisoners when it means sending them abroad does not indicate a change of policy or attitude on the part of the Chinese."

"Of course we would welcome Wang Dan's release," Mr. Jendrzejczyk said, "but we would urge the administration to insist on more meaningful reforms in exchange for Clinton's visit to Beijing."

The Chinese objected strenuously when Mr. Clinton met Mr. Wei in a private meeting in the White House on Dec. 8, less than a month after his release. In the meeting, Mr. Wei warned Mr. Clinton to be wary of

Chinese government promises and said: "Do not pay before the goods are delivered."

In this case, Mr. Clinton appears to have ignored Mr. Wei's advice. Mr. Clinton agreed to drop the annual U.S. sponsorship at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva of a resolution condemning China's human rights practices.

On March 13, White House officials said they would not sponsor a resolution this year because the Chinese had met U.S. requirements, including an agreement to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the release of a number of prominent political prisoners.

"I believe there will be further releases," a senior official said then, and human rights workers speculated that those prisoner releases might include Gao Yu, a journalist arrested in 1993 just before she was to attend Columbia Journalism School in New York. She got six years for divulging state secrets in an article she wrote in a Hong Kong newspaper about the Chinese budget. The list could also include Liu Nianchuo, a labor activist serving three years in a labor camp who is said to be in bad health.

The White House has also raised the cases of some Tibetan Buddhists, and an U.S. religious delegation that recently visited China gave the authorities a list of some 30 church figures who have been harassed or are under arrest. They said on their return to America that they expected some on their list to be released soon.

The most prominent on the list is Bishop Shu Zhimin, 65, who has spent two decades in and out of prison for preaching outside government-authorized churches.

BRIEFLY

Tibetans Protest In Indian Capital

NEW DELHI — Hundreds of Tibetans marched through New Delhi's busiest thoroughfare Thursday to demonstrate support for six activists who have not eaten for 24 days to protest alleged human rights violations by China in their Himalayan homeland.

The exiled Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama, made an unannounced visit to the tent where the six protesters were staging their marathon hunger strike. Later Thursday, the movie star and pro-Tibet campaigner Richard Gere, who is visiting India, met Indian students at the Jawaharlal Nehru University and urged them to mount support for the Dalai Lama's cause.

"What are we going to do about the 6 million Tibetans still living in genocidal conditions?" Mr. Gere said to the hundreds of students who had gathered to listen to him.

The strikers, led by 71-year-old Kun Sang, want the United Nations to resume debate on Chinese-controlled Tibet in the General Assembly. They also want the body to appoint a special representative to investigate alleged human-rights violations and to appoint a special envoy to Tibet.

Police Cordon Off Ranariddh's Hotel

PHNOM PENH — Riot police cordoned off the area around Prince Norodom Ranariddh's hotel in a security crackdown Thursday following clashes between hundreds of his supporters and protesters loyal to his arch-rival, Hun Sen.

But tensions still ran high, and a Ranariddh supporter who wanted to print some leaflets was attacked and badly beaten by two plain-clothes police officers, human rights workers said.

Thursday evening, a Cambodian worker for the UN Human Rights Center was severely beaten by a group of policemen.

The violence underscored the tensions between Prince Ranariddh and Mr. Hun Sen since the prince returned Monday to prepare for elections scheduled for July 26. The visit is Prince Ranariddh's first since Mr. Hun Sen deposed him in a bloody coup nine months ago.

Prelate Installed In Ho Chi Minh City

HO CHI MINH CITY — Vietnamese Catholic Church officials installed an influential archbishop in a colorful ceremony on Thursday in a sign of slowly warming ties between Hanoi and the Vatican.

People here said the investiture of Jean-Baptiste Pham Minh Man as archbishop of Ho Chi Minh City was long overdue.

Archbishop Man, 64, stepped into one of the Vietnam Catholic Church's highest positions two years and nine months after the death of his predecessor, Paul Nguyen Van Binh, in July 1995.

(Reuters)

As Indonesians Widen Dissent, More Are Missing or SeizedBy Cindy Shiner
Washington Post Service

JAKARTA — Francisca Sri Haryani never spoke to her six children about the hardships she endured during the turbulent period leading up to and immediately following President Suharto's coming to power in the mid-1960s.

She did not talk about how, while in labor with her first child, she had to walk a mile to the doctor because there was no transportation; how there was no milk for her newborn; how neighbors and friends disappeared or were killed in the anti-Communist purge that followed the unsuccessful coup that heralded Mr. Suharto's ascendancy.

"It was pointless. I didn't want to talk about the suffering of the past," said the slight, 63-year-old.

But she can no longer block out reminders of that painful era.

Mrs. Sri Haryani's son, a political activist, has been missing for more than a month. Human rights workers say he has been jailed, but their search for him has been fruitless. They say he is among a growing number of government opponents who have disappeared, gone into hiding or been arbitrarily detained this year as the administration seeks to quell dissent during Indonesia's worst economic and political crisis since Mr. Suharto came to power 32 years ago.

"I think it is the same now," Mrs. Sri

Haryani said. "The government threatens its opponents now just like they faced the Communists. They only recognize parties or political activities on the side of the government."

Her son, Pius Lustriangan, 29, is secretary-general of a group known as Siaga, a political coalition that supports two of Indonesia's most prominent opposition figures: Amien Rais and Megawati Sukarnoputri, the daughter of former President Sukarno. Another Siaga leader, Ratna Sarumpaet, was arrested with eight other activists March 10 during a small pro-democracy demonstration.

Marzuki Darusman, deputy chairman of the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights, said it was "wor-

rying" and "quite out of the ordinary" for such prominent activists as Mr. Lustriangan and Mr. Sarumpaet to disappear.

"Now and then we do have reports of people missing who are just the rank-and-file activists, but this time it's an official, or an officer of a movement," he said of Mr. Lustriangan. He added that the arrests and disappearances showed that the authorities were "out taking these new groupings lightly and therefore these things can happen even to open and on-the-surface groups."

Amnesty International says there has been a "dramatic increase" in the number of political detentions this year. At least 140 people are in jail awaiting trial

for involvement in political activities and demonstrations.

Local human rights groups say about a dozen people have been reported missing — a loose term that usually means a person has been detained by security forces, gone into hiding or been abducted by shadowy, pro-government vigilantes.

Local human rights workers also have been intimidated. They talk of harassing phone calls in the middle of the night and constant surveillance by intelligence agents. The home of one rights worker was stoned. Some political detainees have been roughed up and burned with cigarettes.

The last time the government cracked down on its opponents with similar vigor was in July 1996 when Mrs. Megawati's Indonesian Democratic Party headquarters was stormed. Sixteen people are still missing.

Last month, the government banned political gatherings and demonstrations during the week leading up to and following the 11-day meeting of the People's Consultative Assembly that appointed Mr. Suharto to a seventh five-year term.

Political activity on college campuses was banned 20 years ago, but student protests are held almost daily across the country. Activists, however, rarely dare to leave campus to march down the streets to press their demands for political and economic reform. On the few occasions they have, security forces quickly intervened with truncheons. The military recently called for dialogue.

"Until the last few years, people only whispered about politics," a student said. "They were afraid to speak out loud. They have been living in fear for the past 32 years."

To deal with growing popular discontent, the government has begun dusting off old laws on subversion and political activity from the pre-Suharto era.

"They seem to have difficulties referring to the existing laws, so they are looking into the archives and have found that apparently there is a law that is still in force that can be used to process borderline cases," said Mr. Marzuki of the Commission on Human Rights.

At least one law dates to 1963, when President Sukarno was struggling with his Communist opponents. The law stipulates that every political activity must be reported to the police and a permit issued for gatherings or demonstrations.

Suharto Won't Let 'Achievements Go Down Drain'**Q & A / Ali Alatas, Foreign Minister**

As leaders from the European Union and 10 East Asian nations gathered for a meeting in London, the Indonesian foreign minister, Ali Alatas, discussed issues facing his nation with Robert Kroes for the International Herald Tribune.

Q. The re-election of President Suharto to a sixth term as Indonesia's leader and his choice of former Technology Minister B.J. Habibie as his vice president has done little to restore international confidence in the rupiah or the Indonesian economy, for that matter. Isn't Suharto's self-perpetuating rule after 32 years in office a reason for this lack of confidence?

A. It is not a matter of self-perpetuating rule. A sudden change at helm now would be a recipe for disaster. The president was re-elected by the Peoples' Consultative Assembly last month because he is the only guarantee for national stability, which is an absolute must to get Indonesia out of its current plight.

Foreign critics overlook the fact that it was President Suharto who brought the nation out of the chaos of the 60s and turned it into a regional economic power that won universal praise until the monetary crisis struck East Asia last year.

The president accepted another term because he refuses to see his life's achievements go down the drain.

Q. But can the government ignore the rising tide of student demonstrations, Indonesian media criticism of corruption and nepotism and pressure for democratic reforms from public figures like the Muslim leader Amien Rais and Megawati Sukarnoputri, the daughter of Indonesia's first president?

A. Megawati is not a serious contender for the country's leadership and says so herself. As for the demonstrations and press criticism, such safety valves help relieve the pressure as long as they don't threaten the nation's stability. Nobody is happy with the present economic situation.

Q. But the president seems reluctant to take the medicine prescribed by the International Monetary Fund, especially when it affects his family's business interests. Take his youngest son's national car venture, whose preferential status violates free-trade regulations, according to the World Trade Organization. The Timor car project was supposed to be shut down, but has it?

A. We will abide by the WTO ruling and that venture will be terminated. But we feel the IMF initially rode somewhat roughshod over the specifics of Indo-

nesia society, with its demands for wholesale privatizations. Take this so-called rice monopoly, for instance. Rice has always been the life-sustaining staple of the nation, and even the Dutch colonial government took that into account. It is easy for the IMF to say, abolish the monopoly of BULOG, the government agency that distributes vital rice supplies to the farthest corners of the archipelago. Do you think that a private company would bother selling rice in places like Iran or other outlying islands?

Q. Your neighbor Malaysia is evicting illegal Indonesian migrants, apparently including political refugees from Aceh in north Sumatra. Could that lead to a new confrontation as in the days of President Sukarno?

A. That is totally out of the question. I talked with my Malaysian colleague today, and we are both horrified at last week's riots and death toll at that migrants' camp near Kuala Lumpur. But we understand Malaysia's position, and Indonesia is cooperating in the repatriation by sending ships. As for the migrants from Aceh who are now claiming political refugee status in the premises of the High Commissioner for Refugees, we will look into that problem with the HCR. I don't believe they qualify for the status of so-called freedom-fighters, though. The real rebels stayed put in Aceh and didn't run away to Malaysia.

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SCS: 1,25 SCSP: 1,15

ALLEMAGNE (zone I) DM - TVA 10%
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MAX: 1,03 SCSP: 1,35

BELGIQUE au FPI - TVA 21%
GO: 1,26 FOD: 9,87
SCS: 34,40 SCSP: 30,41

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Seoul's Ex-Intelligence Chief Faces Arrest in Smear Inquiry

Reuters

SEOUL — A court issued a warrant Thursday for the arrest of a former intelligence chief linked to a smear campaign that took place just before the election in December.

The state-run Korean Broadcasting System television said the warrant for the former official, Kwoo Young Hae, had been issued at the request of state prosecutors. But Mr. Kwon refused to comply with the warrant and had not yet been arrested, the report said.

Mr. Kwon, a former director of the Agency for National Security Planning, was due to be discharged from a hospital

late Thursday after emergency surgery that followed a suicide attempt. He sliced his stomach with a blade March 21 after facing six hours of questioning in connection with the alleged plot.

cial Say

ment promises and said: "Do not be delivered."

Mr. Clinton appears to have ignored the United Nations Human Rights practices.

3. White House officials said, for a resolution this year because U.S. requirements, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the release of a number

of further releases, a new

and human rights workers

prisoner releases might include

Journalism School in New York,

revealing state secrets in an article

could also include Lin Nanhai,

three years in a labor camp

use has also raised the cases of

and an U.S. religious delega-

tives who have been harassed

on their list to be released

two decades in and out of prison

government-authorized church

BRIEFLY

Tibetans Protest in Indian Capital

NEW DELHI — Hundreds of Tibetans marched through New Delhi's business thoroughfares yesterday to demonstrate against six activists who have not been released after 24 days to protest alleged human rights violations in China's

The exiled Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama, made an announcement to the tent where the protesters were staging their march

strike. Later Thursday, the exiled star and pro-Tibetan singer Richard Gere, who is visiting India, met Indian students at Jawaharlal Nehru University and led them to a meeting with the Dalai Lama's cause.

"What are we going to do about 6 million Tibetans living in social conditions? We have to do something," he said. "I have to go to the human rights audience to be gathered to fight for them."

The strikers, led by Wangyal

and Sang, want the Indian government to release the 16-year-old

and Tibetan

and supporters and pro-Tibetan

architects. They had gathered

to demand that

the government

and police

and human rights

Herald Tribune

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Indian Nuclear Policy

Lurking in the otherwise reasonable American welcome of India's new Hindu nationalist-led coalition government is a tinge of concern for the future of Indian nuclear policy. Past party pronouncements have favored ending the maintenance of what Indians have called, since their lone weapons test of 1974, a nuclear option. Instead, the now-governing party would at the least declare India a nuclear power and perhaps move on to missile flight testing, weapons testing and ultimately deployment. Any one of these steps could escalate Indian-Pakistani tensions. Any one could confound the global American effort to contain proliferation.

It is not easy for Americans to broach nonproliferation with democratic and friendly India. Indians see such approaches as serving the convenience and pride of a country richer but no wiser and no more threatened than themselves. That their nuclear priorities arise first not from regional rival Pakistan but from China, a major strategic power. These considerations require Washington to proceed with care.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Jones Case Dismissed

Proper Legal Process

In the Paula Jones case, as in White-water and all lawsuits and investigations involving Bill Clinton's legal troubles, the New York Times editorial page has argued for full, fair operation of the legal process. We are satisfied that the proper procedures were followed by Judge Susan Webber Wright in granting summary judgment for President Clinton.

By ending the case so dramatically, Judge Wright has opened the way for argument among legal scholars and perhaps for an appeals court as to whether she read the law correctly. Reasonable people can disagree with her decision that the behavior attributed to Mr. Clinton, even if true, did not amount to the legal definition of sexual harassment requiring a full trial.

Even so, we are satisfied that Mrs. Jones was treated respectfully by the court, that she had vigorous representation and that Mr. Clinton and his lawyer, Robert Bennett, enjoyed no unearned advantage in securing their victory. Indeed, the Supreme Court affirmed Mrs. Jones's right to bring her charges, and compelled the president to respond to them.

If the ruling stands, Mr. Clinton has not merely prevailed as a litigant. He has won a huge political victory, avoiding a trial that could have further undermined his reputation and had an irremediable impact on the history of his administration.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Now Back to Starr

Judge Susan Webber Wright on Wednesday dismissed Paula Jones's sexual harassment suit against Bill Clinton. When finally faced with the question of whether there was a plausible legal case for sexual harassment, the judge held that there was not.

Even if Mrs. Jones is telling the truth and a state trooper brought her to then Governor Clinton, and he exposed himself to her and asked for oral sex, the alleged conduct does not meet the legal definition of sexual harassment, the judge ruled. There is, therefore, no need to have a trial.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Other Comment Cures Worth Financing

We are at the point where we can literally buy and pay for cures and therapies that once were thought impossible. It has been discovered that regeneration is possible in the central nervous system. The next step is to humanize [a growth antibody shown to be successful in rats]. But what if the money isn't there to make it happen?

There will be a vaccine for diabetes, there will be a way to stop the demyelination in MS, there will be a cure for Alzheimer's. All these things are not speculation, but right now we spend, say, about \$90 billion a year in Medicare and Medicaid payments to people with Alzheimer's while doing nothing to cure them. Certainly, another \$13 billion in the scheme of things is very little, but over the next five years if we were to double the budget, the savings could be as high as \$350 billion.

—Christopher Reeve, quoted in *The Washington Post*.

Europe Can Be Part of the Solution for East Asia

LONDON — A resurgent Europe meets a demoralized Asia in London this Friday and Saturday to try to find a common strategy and sense of purpose. The two regions together account for half of the world's economic output. The meeting will be dominated by the need to counter the financial crisis in East Asia, which has undermined a self-confident march to affluence.

The leaders will seek ways to promote faster growth and greater prosperity in Asia and Europe. They can do so more effectively by working together. Can the Europe-Asia meeting deliver?

One proposal on the table is a European know-how fund to speed up financial reforms in East Asia. High-sounding goals include removing nontariff barriers to trade and relieving extreme poverty caused by the collapse of whole economic sectors in some East Asian countries. If the meeting succeeds in setting the right course, it can do much to improve the lives of close to half the world's population.

Economics: The London summit is an opportunity to build on the international rescue efforts mounted

By Roger Buckley and William Horsley

mainly through the IMF and the World Bank, which have staved off a total collapse among some of the economies of East Asia. One test will be whether the meeting can cajole reluctant governments, such as Indonesia's, into adopting more painful but prudent long-term policies. Investment from and trade with Europe could play a key role in East Asia's recovery.

Politics: When the first Asia-Europe summit was held in Bangkok two years ago, East Asia was riding high and unconcerned about promoting greater democracy. But a lesson that many have drawn from recent events is that authoritarian politics lead to misery. The democratically elected leaders in South Korea and Thailand are proving better at carrying through painful economic reforms to hasten recovery than their authoritarian counterparts in Indonesia.

In Japan, the arrogance of unaccountable mandarins in the Ministry of Finance and other inner sanctums of

power has been punctured. Tokyo must be encouraged to press on with far-reaching reforms of its political and economic structures.

Japan is still the world's largest creditor and second largest economy. It could be a major engine for recovery. But it should not succumb to its old bad habit of introspection. Instead it should stimulate domestic demand and give a positive lead to other Asian countries.

One positive sign for East Asia is that China has recently chosen a dynamic prime minister, Zhu Rongji. He sees the need for more accountable government. He also wants to harness the enormous economic energy of the Chinese population by moving closer to the principle of free enterprise.

But there are latent dangers for East Asia. Among them are a new round of financial implosions that would make it more difficult for Japan to avoid recession, protectionism and a rise of nationalism and xenophobia, already evident in Malaysia's mass expulsions of illegal immigrants.

Europe looks like part of the solution for East Asia, rather than a drag on the

region. The most dynamic emerging economies are now in Eastern Europe, not East Asia. Poland, for example, with a population of nearly 40 million, is well on the way to emulating the feat carried out by Japan and South Korea, of doubling national income in a decade.

The European Union, newly reinvigorated by strong internal competition and sound policies, has become an economic superpower. It represents a market even larger than that of the United States. It has played a leading part in liberalizing global commerce through the World Trade Organization. It is steering the former Warsaw Pact states toward becoming robust free-market economies and full EU members.

The launch of the single European currency will give the EU additional global authority. Such pooling of sovereignty could be a pointer to Asia on the benefits of closer regional integration.

Mr. Buckley teaches history at the International Christian University in Tokyo. Mr. Horsley is the BBC's European affairs analyst. They contributed this comment to the Herald Tribune.

For Chinese, Economic and Political Progress Go Together

STASBOURG — The future direction of China has become clearer. An observer has to give a positive judgment in most respects.

Competent reformers have slipped with little fuss into the presidency and the prime ministership. The transition of Hong Kong and the fallout from the financial crisis in Southeast Asia have been handled with tact and responsibility.

And at the recent meeting of the People's Congress, the leadership committed itself to dismantling the worst excesses of the command economy — bloated bureaucracy, indebted banking sector and loss-making state-owned enterprises that waste so much of China's capital and resources.

Now that we know where China is heading and who is in charge, we need a strategic vision for managing relations.

At the Asia-Europe summit that starts in London this Friday, China may be promised EU support for membership in the

By James Moorhouse

World Trade Organization and for developing its economy.

This rosy vision of China ignores human rights. Despite its many recent achievements, China is still a Communist dictatorship; it still oppresses its own people and occupies and brutalizes Tibet. No strategy for dealing with China can be complete unless it addresses the issue of how to turn the world's largest autocracy into the world's largest democracy.

It is in this respect that the EU's China strategy falls down. At the Asia-Europe summit, human rights will be discussed with China only at the margins of the meeting, as part of a separate EU-China dialogue. In this way, human rights will be kept out of the media spotlight, and separated from key decisions about strengthening economic ties.

This setback for human rights comes hot on the heels of the EU's decision not to support a resolution censuring China at the UN Commission on Human Rights, in Geneva.

Port a resolution censuring China at the UN Commission on Human Rights, in Geneva.

The European Commission and the Council of Ministers claim that they are not downgrading human rights issues, merely approaching them in a different way that they believe to be more effective.

Sir Leon Brittan said recently that the best way to promote human rights in a reformist China was to strengthen the process of economic reform and maintain a constructive political dialogue. This view does not stand up to close examination.

Supporting economic reform is a good idea, but China has yet to undergo political reform. In Russia, we can believe that aid, trade and investment will strengthen human rights because Russia is a democracy. In China, the wrong people are in power under the wrong political system.

In this situation, human rights are in danger of being caught in a Catch-22: if economic reforms strengthen the political dictatorship, then we are moving further away from democracy; if reforms undermine the leadership, we must fear what brutal measures they might take to reassess control.

In the late 1980s, China-watching felt that economic liberalization would lead to political liberalization. What we got instead was Tiananmen Square. Nearly 10 years on, there is still no reason to believe that the tenacious Chinese leadership will simply reform itself out of existence.

The very next stage of economic reform could be the one to create a social explosion. If China carries out its promise to slim down the bureaucracy and close loss-making banks and state-owned enterprises, it could put 4 million people out of work. China, post-Mao, has never been tested by a strain of this magnitude.

It is not clear that the EU's

comfortable political dialogue with China will have any impact at all on human rights. Simply, you cannot talk the Chinese authorities into improving human rights. They respond only to pressure.

In short, we have to make our concerns their concerns.

As the next stage of China's reform process unfolds, the EU does have an opportunity to improve human rights in China, but it can be done only by telling Beijing that the aid, trade and investment it so desperately needs to reform its economy are conditional on China observing international standards on human rights.

Economic progress going hand-in-hand with political progress — that should be our vision and strategy for China in the new millennium.

The writer, a British Conservative in the European Parliament, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Potemkin Capitalism in Vietnam After a Hopeful Start

HO CHI MINH CITY —

The first startling signs of the "new Vietnam" are the shimmering pink walls and emerald glass windows of the Metropolitan Building, an edifice so sleek, with its pyramidal spires, that it could have been transported whole from downtown Los Angeles.

Look at the elegant shops on the ground floor. The neatly dressed foreigners queuing up at the bank windows and using the lobby ATM machine. What a potent symbol of financial liberalization, consumer convenience and 21st century globalism in a nation reborn.

But look again. That isn't really a real house. Those are three lifeless mannequins propped up in front of cardboard counters. The tellers dressed in traditional *ao dai* are dummies, too.

Go past the armed guards and into the strangely quiet lobby

By Michael Zielenziger

and you learn that this swank property is virtually deserted. Stroll by the hotels that stand padlocked, or the factory sites where work has stopped, and the story is the same: Foreign money is throwing up its hands and leaving the country.

To a visitor returning after a gap of nearly five years, the striking thing was not the high-rise office buildings now towering over Dong Khoi Street but the fact that they were nearly empty. In an Asia convinced by change, who would have thought that the new Vietnam would become stagnant?

Before President Bill Clinton lifted the trade embargo in 1994, it was easy to envision a bright future for this brutally bruised nation once the Americans opened the gates blocking trade and aid. The Vietnamese

people, after all, remain among the hardest working; literacy rates are high, labor rates low; the lush Vietnamese countryside virtually hulges with food, and English is widely spoken. If America helped open up Vietnam to foreign commerce and foreign ideas, the momentum for liberalization would become unstoppable. Or so it seemed.

For a while, in fact, the foreigners with their business plans and their profit forecasts streamed into Hanoi to win permission to build export zones, hotels, food processing businesses and consumer products factories. Vietnam was the flavor of the month among emerging markets. Even many "Viet Kieu" Vietnamese who fled the country after the war, came home to help rebuild.

A friend of mine, who fled

his homeland in a leaky scow, was one of those who dreamed of such a homecoming. He had a "mission," this MBA graduate recalled over beer here one night. "I wanted to help my country recover. I felt like I had a duty to help my people."

Now, just three years after he returned to help a U.S. multinational set up operations in Vietnam, he was packing up for California. "The government will just not allow the people to think for themselves," he said.

"So they can't compete in the modern world. And the endless government red tape and the resulting corruption from plenty bureaucrats just does not cease."

Last year, new foreign investment plunged by 50 percent, to \$5.1 billion.

Investors from South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore realized that problems at home brought on by the Asian currency crisis demand their attention. And European or American investors would rather buy Thai assets at half-price than slog through the primitive back halls of Hanoi's ministries to secure another import license or investment approval.

The complaints from business executives have not changed in a half-decade: the lack of a legal framework for doing business, corrupt bureaucracy, and government fiascos that can vary from week to week.

Business leaders once felt that Hanoi's aging leadership would follow Beijing's model for development. A gradual transition to a free market would unfold as long as the

Communist maintained tight political control.

But Vietnam awaits its own version of Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji. And rather than learn from Asia's currency crisis that transparency and a light government hand are the solutions to economic troubles, its leaders are hunkering down to ride out the storm.

"We'd have hoped by now the government would signal it understands the need for reform," an attorney who has pioneered foreign investment told me. "But frankly, the tide is going the other way."

As South Korean and Indonesian banks close their branches here, disgruntled expatriates go home, and foreign joint ventures sink in red ink, the best scenario Vietnam's real friends can hope for is another crisis to force the country's leadership to re-examine its conduct.

The writer is Tokyo bureau chief for Knight-Ridder Newspapers. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Correction

Two editorial columns that appeared April 1 were transmitted by the New York Times News Service with the bylines transposed. The commentary "The Trouble to Remove in Iraq Is Saddam Himself" was by A. M. Rosenthal, and the column entitled "This Isn't the Way to Help Russia" was by Thomas L. Friedman.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Zola's Appeal

PARIS — The Criminal Chamber of the Court of Cassation quashed the judgment of the Seine Assizes which condemned M. Emile Zola for publication of the famous letter "J'accuse ..." in the *Aurore*. The judgment points out that the law doesn't distinguish between civil, administrative or military tribunals. In a word, the Minister of War had no authority to bring an action against M. Zola, and the Public Prosecutor was without quality to bring such a prosecution before the Assizes.

The French see their dilemma as particularly French.

But it is no doubt a version of the problems that the great transformation of the world's economy is bringing, indeed of the need for a political dimension when economics seem to dominate everything.

It is a serious challenge to politicians and the intellectuals who supply their discourse, and not only in France. Democracy demands vibrant expression.

Flora Lewis

secution of the Roman Catholic clergy in Russia is closely connected with political antagonism between Moscow and Warsaw, the Bolsheviks exploiting Russian resentment against the treatment of the Orthodox Church in Poland. Hatred of all religion is really at the bottom of all Soviet motives, affecting alike all forms of Christian doctrine.

1948: U.S. Foreign Aid

WASHINGTON — Congress set the United States on its largest peace-time foreign spending program in history tonight [April 2] by approving the \$6,098,000,000 aid bill to spur world recovery and block the spread of Communism. The House and Senate swiftly approved the final version of the "single package" bill which provides aid for sixteen nations included in the European Recovery Program and for Greece, Turkey and China.

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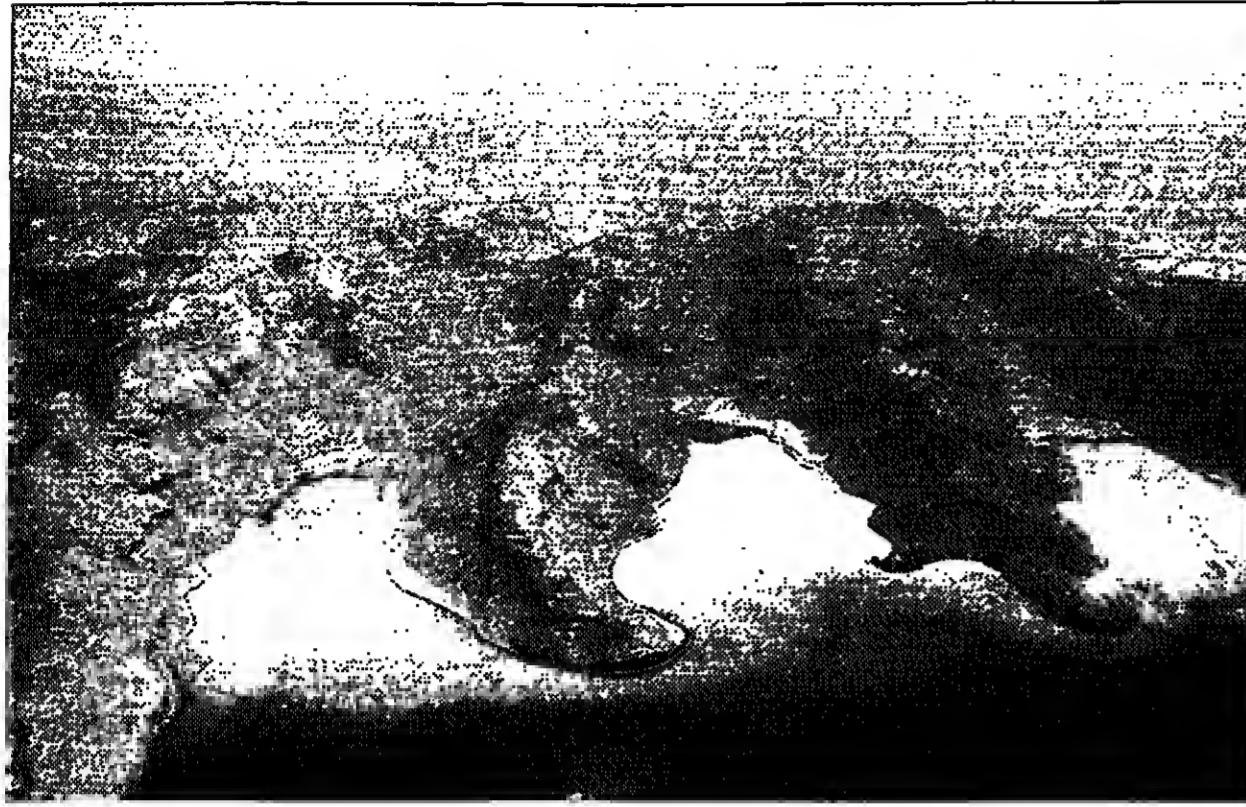
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Baja Bound, for Wild Kayaking or a Brief Respite



Mexico's Baja California peninsula is a land of heat and cold, where life begins at the water's edge. At the southernmost tip is bustling Cabo San Lucas, above right, and San Jose del Cabo, a more sedate Old World village.

By Phillip Sayre
New York Times Service

BAHIA DE LOS ANGELES, Mexico — For human interlopers in kayaks, some sort of wild entertainment is almost always at hand.

Mexico's Baja California peninsula is a contradictory land of heat and cold, sea and desert. The cactuses are often more widely separated than trees on a New York street, and when the sun is up, almost nothing moves.

Even the rattlesnakes sleep in the shade of rocks, waiting for the night to relieve the heat as the temperatures fall 30 degrees Fahrenheit or more soon after the sun drops. It is a land of spines and barbs, of tumbled seaside rocks sharp as hatchets. Life begins at the water's edge.

That is where osprey, seagulls and cormorants congregate on the rocks, where rock lice skitter ahead of one's steps on the small offshore islands. Gray whales swim from Alaska to the Pacific coast to have their young; many travel another 200 miles (320 kilometers) or more to the Gulf of California to feed before returning. For a person paddling a kayak, it means some sort of wild entertainment is not too far away, maybe a school of fish leaping out of the water as a shark feeds below, or a group of curious sea lions peering over the waves to observe the human interlopers.

Last April, I joined three others for a seven-day sea kayaking trip to the islands in the Gulf of California near Bahia de los Angeles, about a third of the way down the Baja's eastern coast. Our group was led by Florin Botecatu of Miramar Adventures in Seattle, an outfitter who leads expeditions in that area.

We were headed for the cabins of Camp Gecko in Bahia de los Angeles, where our outfitter had made his base. The dirt road to the beachfront camp was a torture test for shock absorbers, but it was also a sign that we had truly left civilization. While the cabins had toilets, and showers were available in a separate building, gone were the generators that provided electricity in the towns farther north.

We woke the next day with the sun, and our group got together with Botecatu for some instructions. Throughout the trip we used two-person sea kayaks that require the person in the rear to coordinate strokes with the person in front and to handle the rudder.

After hiking through the central bowl,

which was encircled by cliffs, spirits were high, and the meal of fish and rice that Botecatu prepared that night was outstanding. But everyone was asleep by 9 on a soothing mattress of sand.

ROUSED EARLY That was for the best, because a radiant sun roused us at 6. We quickly gathered our gear and headed for Isla Coronado. Off to our right was an island that had been turned into a bird sanctuary and defied the dominance of terns and gulls with a coat of white. At Inch on a rocky beach on the southwestern coast of Coronado, we came across seagulls with nests above the high tide line. The gulls allowed us to walk up to the nests and look at the eggs without any show of alarm.

We spent two nights on the eastern coast at the narrowest part of the island, not far from a camp set up by Mexican fishermen in a wave-hollowed rock and a pair of Americans who were expecting about half a dozen friends to show up for kayaking and snorkeling.

We portaged the kayaks with a minimum of equipment and put into the lagoon to circle the island, a trip of some nine miles that we accomplished in about five hours in the lighter kayaks. We spent the remaining hours of daylight in luxurious laziness on the beach.

If geography is fate, the Baja is both blessed and cursed. Being a desert means there is 10 inches of rain or less during a year in most areas. That adds up to fewer clouds and more sunny days than virtually anywhere else in the world. The season for sea kayaking in Baja California runs from October through the end of May, when the summer makes it far too hot for such trips. Most outfitters offer expeditionary style trips that involve camping along the way, while others work from a base camp that allows individual day outings.

The trips include the provision of prepared food, usually by a guide who doubles as cook. In addition, virtually all outfitters include the cost of first and last night accommodations in their overall rates, which range from \$850 to \$1,800.

Here are some outfitters:

Baja Expeditions, 2625 Garnet Ave., San Diego, California 92109; (619) 581-3311 and (800) 843-6967.

Ecosummer Expeditions, 1516 Duranleau St., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6H 3S4; (888) 499-0628.

Miramar Adventures, Post Office Box 12094, Seattle, Washington, 98102; (800) 297-3111 and (206) 322-6559.

We put in about two miles north of the lighthouse at Punta Arena, we staggered under the weight of the kayaks, which had grown from dolphins into whales with the addition of food, tents and about two gallons of fresh water for each person a day. But once the craft was launched, the sea water lifted it nicely.

We made a run of about five miles, circling from the southwest of Isla La Ventana to a cove on the western edge of the island in about three hours. An American couple was already camped there, but we decided to pitch our tents near some steep cliffs that cut off all wind from the north and east.

The town of Cabo San Lucas, a 15-minute cab drive (\$10) away, cannot



By Leslie Wayne
New York Times Service

OS CABOS, Mexico — At the southernmost tip of the Baja California peninsula, where the Gulf of California meets the Pacific Ocean, is the fast-growing resort region of Los Cabos. Long a mecca for big-game fishermen, Los Cabos is about as far as one can go in Baja — it's more than 700 miles (1,120 kilometers) from the California border and at the bottom of a landmass known for an austere desert beauty. Yet burgeoning tourism is rapidly changing this corner of Mexico.

Already, many of the prime beach spots have been gobbled up by huge resorts with world-class golf courses, time-sharing condos and exotic Mayan- or Moorish-style hotels. But just beyond their guarded gates are soaring, rugged cliffs that plunge to the sea, a vast desert of subtle drama and two principal towns: Cabo San Lucas, with trendy shops and restaurants for tourists, at the tip of the peninsula, and San Jose del Cabo, 20 miles east, a more sedate, traditional Old World Mexican village.

Looking for a brief break, I booked lodgings at the Twin Dolphin, a small, elegant resort about seven miles from Cabo San Lucas, for four days last April. The hotel was created by the late David Halliburton Sr., an ecologist and oil millionaire who built it at the spot where he used to fish as a boy.

An architecturally dramatic white-on-white 50-room complex spread across a manicured 135-acre desert landscape, it has beaches on both sides, vistas of the shimmering blue Gulf of California (also known as the Sea of Cortez), desert views from every level of its terraces and a dark blue pool that overlooks rock outcroppings and more sea.

Our large room was pristine: white walls, white beds, a balcony with a postcard-perfect view of the sea and an oversized gray-stone bathroom. Hotel amenities include four massage therapists, two tennis courts, an 18-hole putting green, exercise equipment and a two-mile jogging path and nature trail, along with access to a fishing fleet and scuba gear. In keeping with its ecological theme, the hotel's mission statement supporting the area's environment offers guests a "certificate of excellence" if they catch and release their big-game fish.

The town of Cabo San Lucas, a 15-minute cab drive (\$10) away, cannot

make such a claim for environmental sensitivity. Already, there are a Hard Rock Café, a Planet Hollywood and a strip of fraternity-style bars offering bucket-sized margaritas, tawdry shops and nonstop development.

Offsetting the natural beauty are open-air bars built cheek by jowl, hawkers peddling tacky merchandise to bathers and jet skiers zipping around, with the sound of waves drowned out by their droning engines.

But farther into town, there are open-air markets and small stores selling a variety of crafts at reasonable prices.

The quality of Mexican handmade goods is quite high. Little shops offer

San Jose, was a pleasant discovery. One of the oldest resorts in the area, the hotel has a jaw-dropping panoramic view, with water crashing against the rocks below. The dining room and bar, open on two sides, are on a promontory that juts into the sea. The bar's soaring ceilings and outdoor fireplaces reminded us of the great national park lodges in the West. But the hotel, built in the 1950s, is showing signs of age and neglect, with frayed furniture and decor.

One day, we rented a red Volkswagen Beetle from Dollar Rent-a-Car to go to the nearby town of Todos Santos, where American artists from Santa Fe and Santa Barbara have been attracted by the strong light, mountain air and desert climate.

WHITE-KNUCKLE RIDE The drive on the two-lane highway is a white-knuckle excursion on a road with no shoulders stretching through cactus-strewn desert and gentle rolling hills.

In Todos Santos, 50 miles north of Cabo San Lucas, dirt streets alternate with paved ones, and American expatriates have established a little community. We walked into the whitewashed Moorish-style Church of Our Lady Pilar of La Paz and the local museum, Museo de la Casa de Cultura, three blocks from the hotel, where we saw lovely Mexican murals, as well as many Indian skulls and the bones of the 3,000-year-old Mantancita man.

But, though the town offers a welcome dose of culture (there are classical music concerts and an English-language bookstore and newspaper) to Americans living in Los Cabos, we wondered whether it was worth the arduous trip.

Much more to our liking was San Jose, a 20-minute taxi ride (\$20) from the Twin Dolphin. We had dinner at Damiana, an old Mexican restaurant in a hacienda just off the tree-shaded town square. Seated in the bougainvillea-drenched garden, we ate marinated sea bass, rancheros shrimp and wonderfully seasoned Mexican vegetables for \$55, including drinks.

There was a fiesta in town that night, and on the square a band played in the fanciful white gazebo, while people danced on the plaza or sat listening to the music. We learned that it was a religious event — the Day of the Seminarians. We wandered into a 19th-century church just as services were breaking up, and watched as parishioners poured out to join the festivities.



The cliffs at Cabo San Lucas.

beautiful silver jewelry at reasonable prices, starting at \$15 for pins and \$30 for bracelets and necklaces. Elsewhere, hand-made pewter trays, platters and picture frames can be found in the \$30 to \$100 range.

FOR dinner in Cabo San Lucas, Mi Casa was fine, a casual Mexican restaurant with colorful mural-covered walls, dozens of votive candles, a thatched roof and a strolling bartender.

For \$54, we had two huge margaritas and feasted on shrimp ceviche, corn tortillas, chicken mole and chilies stuffed with meat and flan. Another favorite was Casa Rafael's, which serves Continental cuisine in a Spanish colonial town house run by American expatriates.

Seated in a lush garden under the stars and warmed on a surprisingly cool night, by space heaters, we dined on dorado and fish, chicken and meat entrees. Waiters wore white gloves; a Mexican quartet strolled among the diners.

The bar at the Hotel Cabo San Lucas, halfway between Cabo San Lucas and

Kuchiko Daiichi hotel, where the angle on Fuji is somewhat nicer but the rates are slightly higher. The hotel, in fact, offers the ultimate luxury to Fuji fans: a private bathroom with a view of the mountain.

Local residents say that a springtime visit to the region can be refreshing, especially in May when the full blossom of cherry adds a decidedly spring flavor to the mountain air. Fuji opens to climbers in July, and Subaru line, one of the two main entry routes to the mountain, is relatively close both to Kaneyama-en and Lake Kawaguchi.

If mountain-viewing is not enough, visitors may seek modern thrills at Fujiyuki Highland Park, a nearby amusement park. While Fuji's view is particularly alluring up on the famous roller coaster called Fuji-yama, riders are usually too busy screaming. The coaster can hit speeds of 130 kph (80 mph), the world's fastest, and gives the steepest dive, at 70 meters (230 feet), another global record. It's probably somewhat like falling off the top of Mount Fuji.

A quick lesson in Japanese: Mount Fuji in Japanese is Fuji-san, not Fujiyama. The name of the roller coaster at Fujiyuki Highland is a play on the foreign stereotype.

Kaneyama-en, Japanese-style rooms go for about 30,000 yen (\$225); Western-style rooms about 20,000 yen. Tel: 0555-22-3168.

Mifui-en. Rooms start around 20,000 yen. Tel: 0555-72-1044.

Kawaguchiko Daiichi Hotel. About 13,000 yen a person. Tel: 0555-72-1162.

Fujiyuki Highland Park Tel: 0555-23-2111.

Miki Tanikawa is a journalist based in Tokyo.

A Bath With a View: Hot Springs and Mount Fuji

By Miki Tanikawa

MOUNT FUJI, Japan — Since antiquity, viewing Mount Fuji, arguably the most beautiful Japanese mountain, has been considered a special privilege by the Japanese. Today's air pollution and view-blocking skyscrapers have limited this enjoyment largely to areas adjacent to Shizuoka prefecture, where the view of the mountain itself has tourist value. It is little wonder that a legion of hotels, inns and guest houses that dot the region have combined this delight with the most therapeutic Japanese pastime: onsen, or hot springs.

Or perhaps Japanese find the view of Mount Fuji as therapeutic to the eye as onsen is to the body. And that may be why, at many inns and hotels here, the sight is available in public bathing areas, indoor or outdoor, and the feature is actively proclaimed in advertisements.

Nestled under Fuji's east end, the hotel Kaneyama-en offers a view of Fuji-san that is unobstructed. In a country where the sight of Fuji often adorns the walls of the living room in a wood-block print, sumi-e painting or photograph, a live window view of the legendary mountain cutting a sharp figure against a clear, blue sky can be a distinct thrill. Most of the 130 or so rooms have that view, except the ground-floor rooms where a direct entry into a garden is an alternative attraction.

With it all, try the 1995 Savigny-le-Beaune, priced at 240 francs.

The bread, alas, is dreadful. The olive bread is too soft and without character, and the tough, dried rolls are an embarrassment to an otherwise successful restaurant.

MIRAVILLE, 72 Quai de l'Hotel de Ville, Paris 4; tel: 01-42-74-72-22, fax: 01-42-74-67-55. Closed Saturday lunch and Sunday. Credit cards: American Express, Visa. 250-franc menu. A la carte, 300 francs a person, including service but not wine.

BACK TO THE PAST

Despite its decidedly modern looks from the outside, Kaneyama-en makes all attempts at setting modern-day guests back in time. The resounding notes of koto or Japanese harp, per-



Viewing Mount Fuji is considered a special privilege by the Japanese.

formed live, envelop guests as they enter the lobby during regular check-in hours (2:30-5:30 P.M.).

Beyond the cavernous lobby extends a vast Japanese garden where narrow paths in many directions guide strollers past streams, ponds, trees and an array of seasonal flowers like azalea, hydrangea and cherry. Along the way, you may drop by at *chashitsu*, the teahouse, where guests may enjoy a tranquil moment as a kimono-clad tea master pours each guest the traditional *maccha*, whipped tea.

Kaneyama-en taps a spring that yields highly alkaline hot water that has curing effects for such ailments as high blood pressure and rheumatism. But the biggest prize in the hot-spring bath is Mount Fuji, which pops into view in the open-air tub. The crowd typically hits in the morning to see the dawn light reveal the full beauty of Japan's highest mountain.

WITH luck, visitors may see the picturesque *sakazuke* Fuji, the reverse image of Fuji, on the unruled surface of the lake, a condition that results only when there is perfect harmony between a clear sky and still water.

For dinner, curiosity-seekers may opt for *ba-sashi*, or sashimi of horse meat. A reservation is necessary to arrange for this local delicacy.

While internationals are welcome, no English speaker is available at Mifui-en. For English-language guidance, guests must stay at the nearby Kawa-

Something New and Old On the Paris Riverfront

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Some addresses seem destined for constant turnover, and 72 Quai de l'Hotel de Ville on the right bank of the Seine is certainly one of them.

In the past 15 years, the spot has hosted any number of successful chefs, at least two of whom (Georges Massafra and Gilles Epie) packed their bags for America and never came back. One almost wonders whether the newest chef, David Feau, who took over the stoves last month at the Miraville, already has his papers in order for the journey across the Atlantic.

For Parisian diners' sake, one hopes that the young and boyish Feau will stay awhile, for his simple, sane, clear food is what we need more of in Paris.

CLASSIC BUT MODERN Feau's style appeals to jaded palates that want something classic with a modern touch. And while he is fresh from his chef's position at one of Guy Savoy's many Parisian bistros, his food is not just a copy of Savoy's signature cuisine. Feau might open with an offering of a mousse-like *dorieole*, a small cylindrical mold of creamy foie gras and chicken livers, a silken, smooth and not-too-rich starter that is drizzled with a sweet caramel sauce, making your palate wonder whether it

江山 من الأجل

INTERNATIONAL

Off Sicily, a Lucky Fishing Boat Strikes Ancient Bronze Again

By Celestine Bohlen
New York Times Service

MAZARA DEL VALLO, Sicily — First, there was a leg — a left leg, bent at the knee, made of bronze — brought up from the sea in a fishing net last June and even more unexpected, delivered safely to the Civic Museum of this port town on Sicily's southwestern coast.

Afterward, whenever Francesco Adragna and his crew on the Capitan Ciccio went back to the same fishing grounds about 80 kilometers (50 miles) out to sea, they wondered what else lay on the bottom 445 meters (1,455 feet) below.

"It was a thought that was always at the back of my mind," said Mr. Adragna, who at 43 has spent three-quarters of his life fishing the Mediterranean. "I started to fantasize to dream — what if I get it, what if it lands in my net."

On the cold afternoon of March 3, the crew of the Capitan Ciccio was lucky

again. Its nets snagged another mysterious object, which this time turned out to be much of the rest of a beguiling creature: larger than life, eyes wide open, hair flung back, shown halfway through an exuberant piroquette.

"We were all in awe," Mr. Adragna said, recalling his first glimpse of the statue's wide face with its snub nose, its white eyes of either bone or ivory, its stock of short wavy hair and, barely visible through the mud and the harnesses that had tucked into the crevices, the tips of its pointed ears.

The archaeological experts who rushed that night to greet the fishing boat, after he radioed ahead, say the figure — which is missing its feet, its arms and its right leg — is most likely Greek, from the third or fourth century B.C., and it probably represents a Dionysian satyr in mid-dance, rather than Eolo, the god of the wind; which has

been the guess of some in the Italian press.

For Italy's cultural authorities, the discovery of this statue was as close to a miracle as they ever imagined they would get.

"These things don't happen every

Experts say the figure probably represents a Dionysian satyr.

day," said Rosalia Camerata Scovazzo, superintendent of cultural affairs for western Sicily, who was there the night of March 3 to greet the statue at the pier. "It is unique because it is so very beautiful. It is more than the usual clay jug."

Cultural Minister Walter Veltroni, who flew down from Rome for a look, quickly announced that the statue, once restored, would be on permanent exhibit here in Mazara despite rival claims from

the nearby island of Pantelleria, which insists that the statue's resting place for the last 2,000 years was closer to its shores than to Sicily's.

In fact, the statue was found in international waters — where by law, finders can be keepers. Technically, Mr.

Adragna could have kept it for himself, though some members of his crew had suggested it was so much bother that he should throw the leg back in the water. He could have sold it on the lucrative black market in antiquities.

Instead, he will receive a finder's fee — a percentage of the statue's value, still undetermined.

After the discovery last summer of a trove of Roman shipwrecks in the Sicilian channel by an American explorer, Robert Ballard, the Italian authorities have become even more anxious about what might lie beyond their territorial waters and more eager to be the first to lay a claim.

The discovery of the leg had been a badly kept secret. And some here had already been afraid that Mr. Ballard, discoverer of the wrecks of the Titanic and the Bismarck, could at any moment head for the area to try to find the rest of the statue.

As it is, there is a long list of ancient statues found off the Italian coast that have made their way into foreign museums, including an Apollo found off Piombino on the Tuscan coast in 1895 that is now in the Louvre, and the Athlete attributed to Lysippus, which emerged from the sea 30 years ago and is now in the Getty Museum in California.

Italy has enough of a problem chasing down the archaeological relics stolen from its soil without worrying about artifacts found in international waters. But the discovery of the statue's leg last June did spur cultural authorities to seek a formal accord with the Italian Navy for exploration purposes, in particular for the



use of its nuclear-powered submarines.

Mr. Ballard, whose expeditions have access to assistance from the U.S. Navy's NR1 nuclear submarine, is able to explore at depths of 3,000 feet.

"Either we equip ourselves like Ballard, or else they will become the archaeologists of the 21st century," Giuliano Volpe, a professor and spokesman for Italy's Underwater Archaeological Association, said in a recent interview in the newspaper *La Stampa*.

But no Italian submarine had yet been sent out on a mission to seek the statue when the Capitan Ciccio (or Captain Fatto) went on its usual weeklong mission in search of shrimp, octopus and cod and came away with the statue.

Now many worry that Italy may miss its next boat as well, since the worldwide publicity about the discovery of the statue is sure to bring out treasure-hunters to scour the sea floor for other objects that might have been on the ship with the dancing satyr.

For the moment, the satyr is lying at the bottom of a tub of fresh water, on the ground floor of a former Jesuit seminary where from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. daily it has been receiving its first visitors — thousands of them. The water is drained and replaced daily to speed up the desalting process that is essential if the satyr is to be restored to good condition.

The last major find by Italian fishermen was in 1972, when two bronze statues, virtually intact, were pulled from the waters of Riace, along the coast of Calabria in the Ionian Sea. The magnificent statues, now on display at the Museum of Reggio Calabria, were painstakingly restored in the early 1990s with advanced laser techniques and other methods borrowed from high-tech medicine.

The same kind of treatment is in store for the dancing satyr, said Luigi Lentini, a top state archaeological restorer who is one of the first to examine the statue.

"It is not in very good health," he said. "The corrosion is much worse than it was on the Riace bronzes. It faces very serious problems, but we are very fortunate that it landed safely in the net."

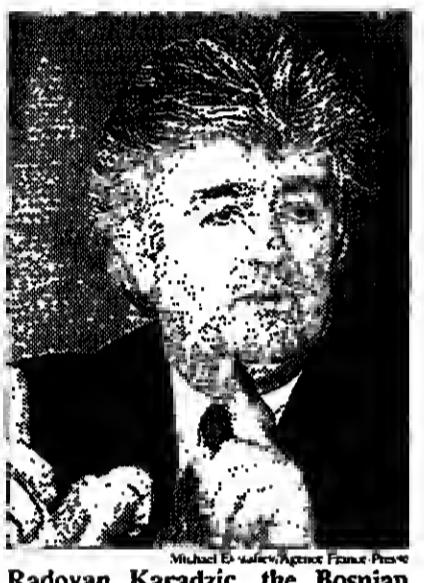
NATO's Entry Unsettles Bosnian Serb Stronghold

But Visit to Karadzic's Village Is Called Routine

Credit: AP Wirephoto

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Hundreds of NATO soldiers and about 50 armored personnel carriers on Thursday swarmed around the house and offices here of Radovan Karadzic, the former Serbian political leader who is Bosnia's top war crimes suspect.

NATO officials in Sarajevo insisted



Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb who is accused of war crimes.

that the huge military presence in Pale, a former skiing village east of Sarajevo, was part of a routine inspection.

But Pale residents said that the presence was heavier than usual during such inspections.

"I think they're putting us under occupation," said an 18-year-old woman, who like other Pale inhabitants declined to give her name.

This is bringing uncertainty to the people," she said. "I don't know what they are doing, but I don't feel safe when I see all this."

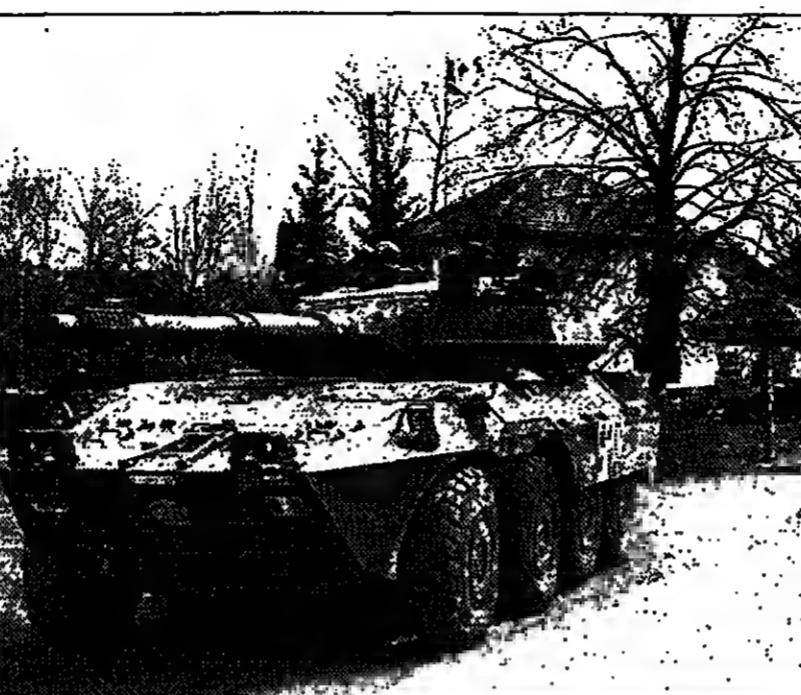
The residents of Pale were startled when troops roared into town under a brilliant sun, riding in dozens of armored personnel carriers, with helicopters overhead.

About 300 Italian troops from the NATO-led peacekeeping force for Bosnia were taking part in the operation, along with about 50 Germans.

NATO officials said the Italians were deployed around Bosnian Serb government buildings in Pale to inspect the work of units of the Bosnian Serb special police as called for under the Dayton accord that ended the 1992-95 war.

The German troops reinforced the Italians in the afternoon with heavy vehicles, blocking the mountain village and Bosnian Serb hard-line headquarters.

Most of the NATO vehicles were



Italian armored vehicles patrolling Pale on Thursday during what NATO said was a routine inspection.

■ Yugoslavia Denounces UN

Yugoslavia on Thursday assailed a new UN arms embargo imposed to stem violence in its mainly ethnic Albanian province of Kosovo as "unfounded" and unacceptable interference in its affairs. Reuters reported from Belgrade.

"The resolution is completely unfounded and sets a precedent in the sense that the internal affairs of a country were debated without that country's consent," the Foreign Ministry said in a

statement published in the pro-government newspaper Politika.

The UN Security Council on Tuesday voted, 14 to 0, with China abstaining, for the embargo in a resolution broadly echoing demands by the Contact Group of six major powers last month.

The Contact Group threatened to tighten financial sanctions against Belgrade in a month if Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic did not make serious moves to restore regional autonomy to Kosovo.

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Continued from Page 1

quickly here," said Andrew Shipley, economist at Schroders Japan Ltd. "The economy is no longer creating jobs."

He added: "The party's over. Unemployment will rise sharply, consumer sentiment is not going to rebound. There is really nothing here to suggest the economy is bottoming out."

Employment fell in February by 0.1 percent, compared with the same period a year before. With wages and consumer spending heading downward as well, the government has a tough challenge in trying to lure people into the stores to buy goods.

In the tankan report, business confidence fell to a four-year low, as corporations conveyed a bleak outlook, indicating they would invest less in big projects and turn in weaker profits this year.

Wholesale prices are dropping, too, and some economists worry that Japan could be entering a deflationary spiral in which overall prices and demand drop.

American and other foreign officials have been calling upon Japan to accelerate growth by stimulating domestic demand, and the government has said it will push through a \$120 billion package aimed at jump-starting the economy. But it has not yet released details of the package, and some economists doubt that its contents will be enough to turn around the pessimistic sentiment in Japan.

The currency, bond and stock markets have also been jittery. Investors dumped stocks Thursday, though the government has tried repeatedly to lift the Tokyo stock market, both by talking it up with hints at government spending and by propping it up with public money. The benchmark Nikkei Average 225 fell 538.76 points, to 15,702.90, for its biggest single-day loss this year, and prompted selling sprees around the region. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index fell 1.25 percent, and in

Japan has been trying to revive its slumbering economy for more than seven years, but its efforts have met with greater difficulties since the spring of 1997 when the government decided to pursue a policy of fiscal austerity and raised a sales tax, cut public spending and suspended tax breaks.

Confidence in the economy was also dealt a blow last autumn after four financial institutions were shut down, putting the spotlight on the nation's banking crisis. Japan's banks are burdened by more than \$600 billion in bad or doubtful debt.

In a notably critical assessment of the Japanese financial authorities, Moody's Investors Service said Japan did not seem to have even reached a crisis point that would bring about a shake-out and then a recovery in the financial industry.

"An unhealthy banking system will at best retard economic activity, and at worst it will threaten financial stability," said Christopher Mahoney, managing director, in a report issued this week by Moody's. "It is fair to say that Japan's banking system is doing both."

■ Executive Warns Foreign Critics

A senior Japanese business leader warned foreign critics Thursday not to "push us too far," as he vigorously defended his country's efforts to bolster its slumping economy and help Asia, Agence France-Presse reported.

"You can use friendly persuasion vis-a-vis Japan — that is welcome because we may be short on wisdom," said Kazuo Nukazawa, senior managing director of the country's most powerful business group, the Keidanren.

"But do not try to humiliate a country into action, especially when a country is your ally," he said.



Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan and his wife, Kumiko, waving to well-wishers Thursday as they boarded a plane at Tokyo's Haneda airport to take them to the Asia-Europe Meeting in London.

EURO: Single Currency Clears Hurdle as Germany's High Court Dismisses Challenge

Continued from Page 1

to cheaper-wage areas of the euro-zone.

"I have absolutely no understanding for this statement," Mr. Kohl said, referring to Mr. Schroeder's remark about the euro's prospective hitting pains. "Anyone who is seeking the office of chancellor and then makes such populist claims disqualifies himself."

Ignoring opinion polls that show two-thirds of the German people are dismayed about abandoning their cherished marks in favor of the untested euro, Mr. Kohl emphasized how he hoped to defeat Mr. Schroeder in national elections in September by convincing voters that only he possessed the confidence to succeed in carrying out what many economists describe as a daring gamble.

Mr. Kohl recalled how the Social Democrats and their party chairman, Oskar Lafontaine, who ran unsuccessfully against Mr. Kohl in the 1990 campaign,

battled against his decision eight years ago to press ahead immediately with German unity after the collapse of the Soviet empire.

At that time, there were doubting Thomases and alarmists who tried to stop us," Mr. Kohl said. "It is largely the same people today who are spreading propaganda against Economic and Monetary Union. But as with German unity, we will not let such naysayers distract us."

Since Germany became Europe's largest nation with 80 million people, Mr. Kohl has said his abiding political mission is to anchor his country at the heart of a unified Europe. He sees monetary union as a dynamic impetus toward that goal, which he often says could spell the difference between war and peace for Europe in the next century.

But Euroskepticism within Germany has been growing. Germans are apprehensive about opening their borders, which they fear will encourage an influx

"People have termed it an adventure, an experiment. It has never happened in human history before that nations organize such a currency union without a complementary political structure in place to actually bear responsibilities."

■ Concession of Defeat

One of the academics who brought the suit challenging the single currency conceded there was no hope of stopping EMU in court, Reuters reported.

But the academic, Karl Albrecht Schachtschneider, a law professor at the University of Nuremberg, lashed out at the judges' ruling, saying it was "highly political and opportunistic."

He also said the court had abdicated its responsibility to "protect the basic rights of Germans."

"We have lost an important piece of legal protection," Mr. Schachtschneider said. "Germany is no longer a law-based state."

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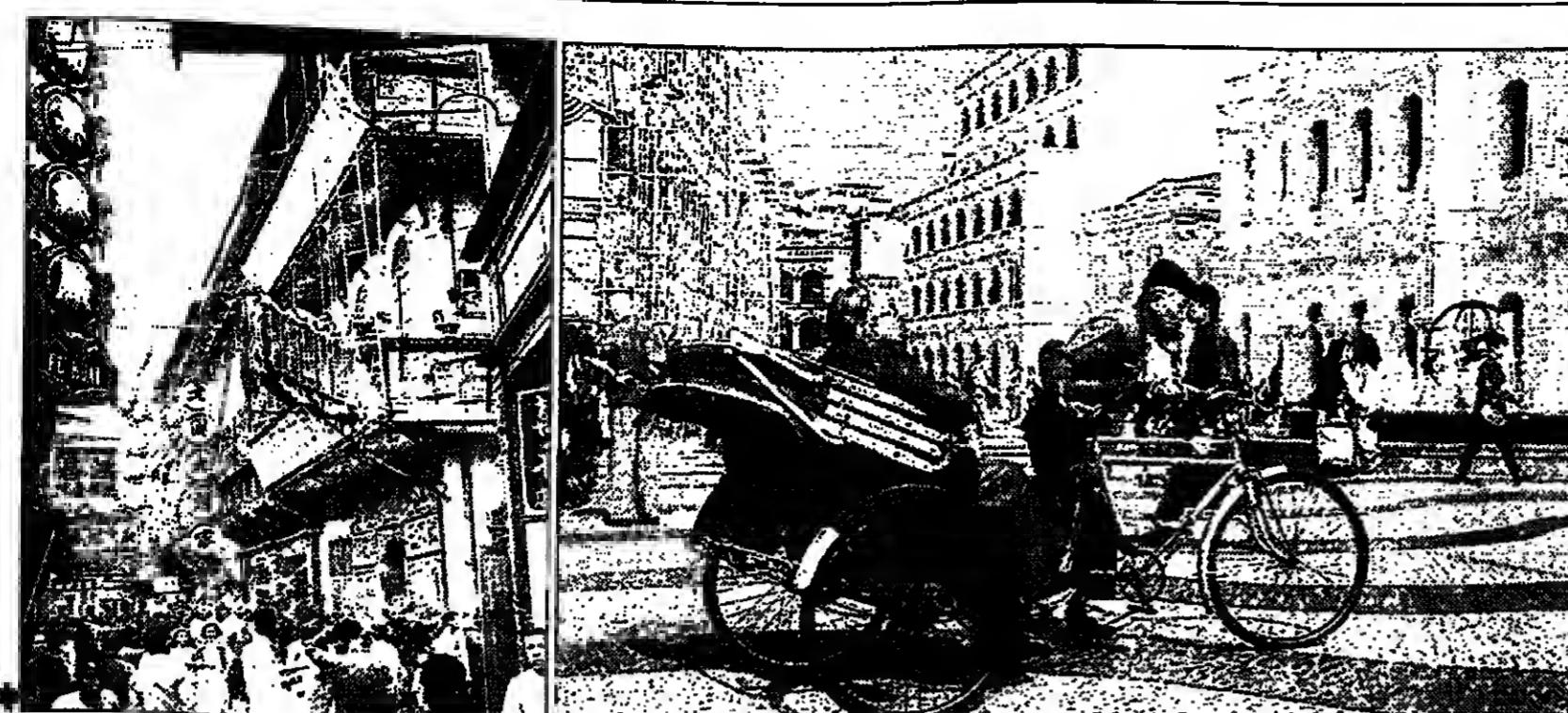
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Chunnel to Create Own Fire Brigade

Reuters



From this typical street scene in 1962, left, much of Macau has been developed in an open, high-rise way that caters to tourists and visiting gamblers.

Wild-West Macau Is Hoping to Hang Up Its Guns

By Philip Segal
Special to the Herald Tribune

MACAU — "Don't be afraid," the woman at the government tourist office assures callers. There is "no problem for the tourists."

She is right. The problem in this Portuguese colony is for law enforcement officials, who are the targets in a resurgence of killings that have been laid to organized crime.

A gunman killed Macau's third-ranking gambling inspector in daylight in sight of police headquarters recently. Less than 48 hours later, a man walked up to the car of a customs police officer and shot him in the head in front of his wife and daughter.

The shootings in Macau, which reverts to Chinese sovereignty next year, were carried out just as Portugal and local businesses are beginning several initiatives aimed at promoting a higher-tech Macau, seeking to wean the island from its dependence on gambling and tourism.

At stake in the criminals' fight is what has been called the most lucrative

gambling franchise in the world, with profits of \$575 million in 1996.

The casinos are licensed to a private company controlled by a Hong Kong tycoon, Stanley Ho, but his exclusive franchise, held since 1962, expires in 2001. Last year he warned against opening the gambling business to competition, predicting "chaos and disorder" if casinos competed for business.

The new Macau — still largely on the drawing board — foresees a thriving, low-cost, service center catering to companies seeking relief from high-cost Hong Kong, just an hour's boat ride away.

So keen is Portugal to showcase Macau as a gateway to Asia that it is acting as host to a European Union technology exhibition here this week, seeking to team European and Asian partners in industrial and scientific research and development.

China and Portugal signed an accord at the exhibition Thursday stating that Macau should become a "connecting point" for scientific relations between Asia and Europe. The two sides agreed to support an international forum on

scientific and technological culture to be held in Macau.

For now, what Macau does not earn from gambling and tourism it makes in exporting garments and textiles. But these may come under sustained pressure because competing clothing exporters in Southeast Asia have benefited from currency devaluations during the Asian economic crisis.

Macau's currency, the pataca, has remained stable because it is linked to the Hong Kong dollar, which is linked to the U.S. dollar.

The kind of company investment that Macau is aiming at initially would emulate the move last October by Hong Kong's Hutchison Telecom, which transferred 600 paging operator jobs to Macau. With wages about half the level they are in Hong Kong and real estate costs at one-seventh the level there, the savings for certain kinds of back office jobs are obvious.

Still, Macau competes not only with Hong Kong for service jobs, but with southern China as well. There, wages and property prices are even lower.

But the main problem with pushing

the image of the new Macau as an efficient Asian hub is the old Macau. The past week's violence is part of a spate of shootings and bombings that began in 1996 and have shattered the colony's tourist industry and image.

Last year, there were 29 murders, many of them thought to be linked to organized crime. A new anti-crime law enacted in August that sanctions the use of video surveillance and wiretapping by the police has not quelled the violence.

Combined with the economic crisis in Asia, the shootings led to a 13 percent drop last year in the number of tourists. As a result, economic growth has been close to a standstill since 1996, after the completion of an expensive but sorely underused airport and vast overbuilding in the real estate market.

Macau promotes itself as having a quaint, European feel. Less quaint, and more indicative of what makes Macau tick, is the scene inside the Hotel Lisboa casino, at once garish and seedy. Here, men emerge from an evening of bartending to pick up the cheaply perfumed prostitutes who have parked themselves at the entrance, just a few feet from the elevators that lead to the guest rooms above.

One of the most prominent boosters of the new Macau is the Delta Asia group, which runs Macau's fifth-highest bank.

Its recent media blitz in Hong Kong on Macau's attractiveness will culminate next weekend when a delegation of about 50 Hong Kong companies visit Macau to consider moving some operations here.

Delta charges businesses nothing up front for the service, conducted with the Macau government, but is counting on handling some of the financial services of companies that decide to relocate.

The group's push follows the shooting on March 24 of Francisco Amaral, the gambling inspector.

IMF Bargains Hard To Rescue Jakarta

Pending Deal Shows Both Sides' Adaptability

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

JAKARTA — As Indonesia inch ed closer Thursday to a new agreement with the International Monetary Fund on the country's \$43 billion bailout, analysts and economists described the proposed deal as far more acceptable to President Suharto than the previous two.

The IMF is thought to have softened its demands for Indonesia to dismantle a web of cartels and monopolies — many of them run by Mr. Suharto's family and friends — and scale down its economic targets and ambitions.

The IMF's deputy managing director, Stanley Fischer, said Thursday that negotiations were nearing an end on an amended program that encompassed greater "adaptability." He said that "important measures" had been added but did not elaborate.

"The IMF has learned that if you press Suharto too far, then he won't do anything," said Sani Hamid, an analyst at MMS International in Singapore. "They've been forced into a compromise that abandons a lot of good reforms."

But the IMF's managing director, Michel Camdessoss, said Indonesia had lost time in repairing its economy by not implementing strict reforms more quickly.

In a speech prepared for delivery in Washington, Mr. Camdessoss said that because of delays, "the rupiah is not substantially overdepreciated, inflation has picked up dangerously, and economic conditions have deteriorated."

In Indonesia, he said, "We are not yet at the point where we are in Thailand and Korea — with strong programs being forcefully carried out."

The IMF suspended a \$3 billion disbursement of the loan package last month because it was not satisfied that Jakarta was carrying out promised reforms, including strengthening the banking and legal systems, ending monopolies, cutting government spending and eliminating subsidies.

Investors expect that the disbursement, suspended March 15, will be made this month, providing a much-needed boost to Bank Indonesia's foreign reserves, which have dwindled to about \$16.5 billion.

The chairman of the Indonesian Central Bureau of Statistics, Sugito Suwito, announced the latest inflation figures Thursday and warned that prices would rise further unless compromise was achieved with the IMF.

Indonesian prices soared more than 25 percent in the first quarter of the year and 5.49 percent in March alone, he said. Inflation for the year that ended Tuesday was 34.22 percent.

"It looks like the IMF has agreed that the subsidies will be reduced gradually," he said. "But if there is a drastic cut, then inflation will shoot up quickly."

An Indonesian government official said the IMF and Indonesia had tentatively agreed to an inflation target of about 50 percent for 1998, compared with an earlier goal of 20 percent. While earlier they assumed a rupiah exchange rate of 5,000 to the dollar, they are now considering an average dollar rate of 6,000 rupiah.

The dollar closed Thursday at 8,650 rupiah, up from 8,600 rupiah Wednesday.

The sources said the two sides expected gross domestic product to fall by around 5 percent during the 1998-99 year, which began Wednesday.

Virtually certain to be dropped in the new agreement will be earlier IMF demands that the government slash subsidies on gasoline, electricity and a number of basic foods.

IMF officials have said they recognize that cutting subsidies all at once could impose more economic pain on the poor.

"Both sides have won some points," said Mohammed Sadli, a former government minister, said. (Bridge News, AFP, Reuters, Bloomberg)

It's an E-Mail - It's a Letter

Microsoft and U.K. Post Office Concoct a Hybrid Product

The Associated Press

line to send e-mails to people without computers, and it would also compete with overnight delivery services from outside Britain to points within Britain by guaranteeing next-day delivery.

The Royal Mail said sending the e-mail to Britain for first-class shipping to points in Continental Europe might also be faster than sending it through regular air mail from the United States — although delivery times are not guaranteed once the letters get into the international postal system.

E-mail users can have their messages downloaded by machines at the post office, then sent anywhere by the Royal Mail. The rates will range from £1.50 (\$2.50) for one page anywhere in the world, to £10 for 50 pages to destinations outside Europe.

The service will allow people on-

line to send e-mails to people without computers, and it would also compete with overnight delivery services from outside Britain to points within Britain by guaranteeing next-day delivery.

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The service could also be good for people who want to send letters without leaving their desk and computer to find stamps and envelopes — although the cost is five times that for a regular stamp within Britain.

For Lower Air Fares, Click and Bid

Auctions Over the Internet Bring Spirit of the Bazaar Back to Retailing

By Saul Hansell
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — You can usually haggle over the price of a car or cut a deal for that rowing machine at a garage sale. But an airline ticket?

Imagine walking up to an airline counter, flashing a wad of bills and offering \$300 for a ticket to Florida when the lowest available fare is \$400. The ticket agent would probably call the security agents. Yet that, in essence, is what consumers will be able to do with an Internet service scheduled to be introduced Monday.

Fares are already all over the map, of course, but they are dictated by the airlines. Now, though, five of the eight largest U.S. airlines and several big international carriers have agreed to respond electronically to bids for round-trip tickets made by consumers over the Internet, according to Priceline, the company establishing the system.

While the tickets have restrictions intended to weed out business travelers, who usually have to pay more, industry consultants expect leisure travelers to be able to use the system to buy tickets at well below listed fares, sometimes without advance-purchase restrictions.

Over the next year, Priceline executives say they plan to extend the

concept to the purchase of cars, to interest rates on home mortgages and even to charges for international phone calls.

Technology, in short, is bringing commerce back to a bazaar-like footing. Ever since the railroad and the Montgomery Ward catalog extended the reach of U.S. big businesses from coast to coast, companies have largely sold their products at fixed prices. But now, more and more goods and services are being sold through auctions or other forms of electronic negotiation.

With some 150 World Wide Web sites running auctions of various sorts, the Internet is already loaded with the sort of haggling never seen at the local mall.

The acknowledged leader of on-line bidding is OnSale, a Menlo Park, California, company that takes bids from 10,000 people a day for surplus computer and electronic goods. eBay of San Jose, California, offers electronic classified advertising in which individuals can auction off their own property. All manner of specialized auctions have popped up, from Bearauction, which sells teddy bears, to Guitarauction, which sells guitars.

Businesses, too, are starting to use Internet auctions to buy office equipment, electrical power and much else.

"The idea that there are fixed prices you have to accept is not actually in-

See AUCTION, Page 17

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

Giving Africans the Wrong Message

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Long dismissed as a stagnant backwater of the world economy, Africa is beginning to stir. Throughout much of the vast tract of the continent that lies south of the Sahara, economic growth is rising robustly for the first time in 20 years. People are starting to talk of African "lion" economies in the way they once spoke admiringly of Asian "tigers."

The reasons are easy to see. More and more African countries are attempting to shake off the shackles of centrally planned, aid-dependent economies and join the worldwide move to democracy and open markets. Increasingly, if still cautiously, African leaders realize that they must encourage trade and private investment if their countries are not to be left behind by economic globalization.

That is also the guiding principle behind the African Growth and Opportunity Act, offering modest trade concessions to the nations of sub-Saharan Africa, that is currently making its way through the U.S. Congress.

It is the message that should have been the centerpiece of President Bill Clinton's 12-day tour of Africa that ended Thursday.

Unfortunately, it wasn't. Instead, Mr. Clinton sent conflicting signals that frequently seemed intended to pander to narrow sections of his political base back home — and especially to African-Americans — rather than to

the root of their economic problems, be pledged to reverse the decline in U.S. financial aid — raising false expectations of future American assistance at the very time Africans ought to be trying to do without it.

By expressing contrition for evils that have afflicted Africa — from slavery to American support of dictators during the Cold War and the blind eye turned by his administration toward the massacres in Rwanda — Mr. Clinton appeared to imply that many of Africa's problems had been due to events outside the continent and thus could be solved by outside intervention.

Rather than frankly tell African leaders that aid dependency has been at

the heart of their economic problems, he

expressed concern for the welfare of the people of Africa and the need to help them help themselves.

No amount of outside support will

do the trick unless African countries

radically improve their methods of

government. That means not just moving

from one bad system to another, but

reforming the political and economic

systems that have created the prob-

lems in the first place.

Mr. Clinton's failure to emphasize

the need for self-reliance and self-

sufficiency is a serious omission.

It is also a wrong message. It is

not that the United States should

not help Africa. It is that the United

States should not do so at the expense

of the rest of the world.

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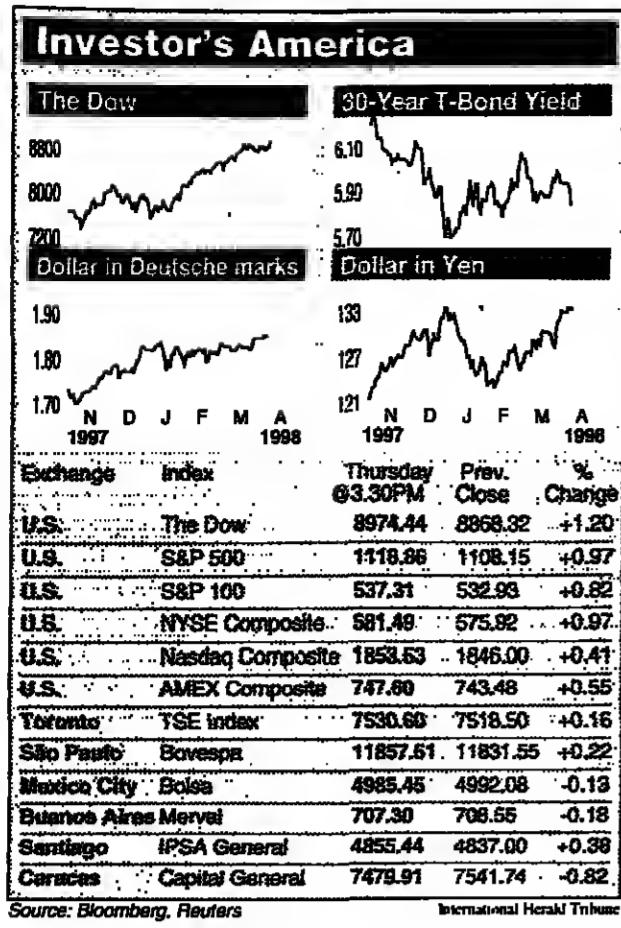
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THE AMERICAS



cial Say

political promises and said: "Don't be delivered."

Mr. Clinton appears to have agreed with the United Nations Human Rights practices.

U.S. White House officials say a resolution this year before the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the release of political prisoners.

There will be further releases, the U.S. human rights workers arrested in 1993 just before the International School in New York for divulging state secrets to the Chinese newspaper about the U.S. serving three years in a labor camp.

The House has also raised the case of U.S. religious figures who have been harassed.

They said on their return to America from the IISI, Bishop Shaojun, two decades in and out of prison, government-authorized char-

BRIEFLY

Tibetans Protest In Indian Capital

NEW DELHI — Hundreds of Tibetans marched through Delhi's business thoroughfare Thursday to demonstrate for six activists who have not been released for 24 days to protest alleged human rights violations in their Himalayan homeland.

The exiled Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama, made an unexpected visit to the tent where the protesters were staging their hunger strike. Later Tuesday, a movie star and producer, Richard Gere, visiting India, met with the Jawaharlal Nehru Museum to present them to the government.

"What are we going to do with the 6 million Tibetans who are persecuted? We have to stand up to the human rights violators," he said to the protesters.

The strike, organized by Karmapa Sangha, was called to protest the killing of Tibetans in Lhasa recently. They are demanding a special committee to investigate and to demand a trial for those responsible.

Police Cordon Off Ranariddh's Hotel

PHNOM PENH — Police surrounded the residence of Prince Ranariddh, the second most powerful Cambodian prince, Thursday evening, after supporters of his half-brother, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, had gathered outside.

A few hundred supporters of Prince Ranariddh had gathered outside the residence of Prince Ranariddh, the second most powerful Cambodian prince, Thursday evening, after supporters of his half-brother, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, had gathered outside.

The violence, which followed a meeting between Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen, who had agreed Monday to support Prince Ranariddh's bid for the Cambodian prime ministerial election, led to some arrests and injuries.

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relate Installed in Ho Chi Minh City

HO CHI MINH CITY — Vietnamese Communists installed an anti-aircraft gun system on a hill overlooking Saigon on Wednesday, a sign of a new military alliance between the People's Army and the National Front.

People here said the anti-aircraft gun system, which had been installed in July, had been installed in Ho Chi Minh City.

Architectural Flaw Takes Flak

HONG KONG — The architect of a building that was built with a major structural flaw has been charged with negligence.

Mr. Wong Yiu-tak, 60, and his wife, Mrs. Wong, 55, were charged yesterday with failing to ensure that the building, a residential complex in the Kowloon area, was safe.

Mr. Wong, a former member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, was charged with negligence.

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China to Propose Tariff Cuts in WTO Bid

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — China's new prime minister, Zhu Rongji, leading his country's first summit meeting with the European Union, said Thursday he would propose fresh cuts in tariffs to improve China's chances of joining the World Trade Organization.

Mr. Zhu also accepted an EU offer of technical assistance to help Beijing create a sound financial system and agreed to make such bilateral encounters an annual event and to set up regular high-level exchanges.

Mr. Zhu was in London to meet with Prime Minister Tony Blair ahead of the second official Asia-Europe Meeting, which gets under way Friday.

The president of the European Commission, Jacques Santer, who also attended the EU-China meeting, praised Mr. Zhu's determina-

tion not to devalue China's currency, the yuan, even though this makes it more difficult for China to compete globally with countries in Southeast Asia whose currencies have plunged in value.

But at a separate conference Thursday for British business leaders, Thailand's deputy prime minister, Supachai Panitchpakdi, said the region's "economic meltdown" could spread to China.

Mr. Zhu, who was making his first trip abroad since taking office, was jovial in his remarks Wednesday night to British business leaders that China would agree to list its state-owned industries on the London Stock Exchange.

"You're welcome to acquire state enterprises, but with one condition: That you don't lay off a single worker," he said.

Later that evening, on learning that Britain's deputy prime minister, John Prescott, had once worked as a waiter on a cruise ship,

Mr. Zhu said he thought that might be a good job for many officials in the Chinese bureaucracy.

Earlier, Mr. Zhu and his British counterpart discussed human-rights questions, among them Tibet and an undisclosed number of individual cases including imprisonment, a spokesman said.

The spokesman, Alistair Campbell, said Mr. Zhu's approach on human rights was "positive" — there was a different atmosphere to things I've attended in the past."

China, for example, has agreed to a visit in Tibet by an EU delegation next month.

Mr. Blair was scheduled to tell Asian leaders at the conference that Europe would "not be a 'fair-weather friend' and would support international attempts to help Asia surmount the crisis."

Officials said this means the EU would pledge to keep markets open and reaffirm its support for support programs by the International

Monetary Fund and the World Bank. It did not mean the EU would abandon controversial anti-dumping tariffs, the officials said.

Also on Thursday, President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea urged foreign investors to help his country out of a crisis that has left 1.5 million people without jobs, a figure that is growing by 10,000 a day, and Indonesia's vice president, B.J. Habibie, said it could take three years for his country to recover.

Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand have been worst hit by the economic slump and face a risk of social unrest as they seek to impose the free-market reforms imposed by the IMF in return for a total of more than \$100 billion in assistance.

One specific measure agreed to by the EU was a 15 million Euro-Currency Units (\$16.1 million) fund that will be used to help Asian countries improve their banking and financial services and combat corruption.

China to Propose Tariff Cuts in WTO Bid

Courtaulds Puts Itself On the Block

Compiled by Ian MacNicol, London

LONDON — Courtaulds PLC said Thursday it was involved in negotiations that could lead to a takeover of the maker of chemicals, coatings and fiber.

A sale would be the latest in a series of consolidation moves in the European chemical industry as producers look to cut costs and maneuver into higher-margin areas in the diverse industry.

Courtaulds declined to name the potential bidder, but analysts said Akzo Nobel NV of the Netherlands and Imperial Chemical Industries PLC of Britain were likely candidates. Both of those companies declined to comment. Others that have been mentioned include the American companies PPG Industries Inc. and Sherwin Williams Inc.

Analysts said a bidder would probably have to pay between 450 pence and 550 pence a share for Courtaulds, valuing it at between £1.8 billion and £2.2 billion (\$3 billion and \$3.7 billion).

Courtaulds' stock rose 67.5 pence, or 17 percent, to close at 456.5 pence. Speculation that Courtaulds could face a bid has grown since it disclosed plans in February to break itself into a coatings and sealants business and a fibers and chemicals operation.

Its chief executive, Gordon Campbell, said at the time that he wanted to sell the polymer-products arm, which makes plastic packaging for toiletries and pharmaceuticals, to fund expansion at the other businesses.

In other deals so far this year, Ciba Specialty Chemicals AG bought Allied Colloids PLC, a British specialty-chemicals maker, for \$2.3 billion; Yulex Cato PLC bought Holiday Chemical Holdings PLC for \$240 million, and Flint Ink Corp. agreed to buy Mander's PLC for \$166 million.

The chief attraction for any bidder for Courtaulds would be the company's world-leading position in marine and aerospace paints, as well as its powder coatings, which are baked on to building materials, vehicles and consumer goods such as refrigerators.

Courtaulds is one of the oldest names in British business, originating in the silk-weaving trade in the early 19th century. It was a world pioneer in man-made fibers in 1904 with the development of viscose rayon. (Reuters, Bloomberg)

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"East German wages should be the same as those in the West, and that remains our target," Mr. Mai said. "This will play a role in future negotiations."

Under the agreement, workers will be required to begin contributing to pension plans starting in 1999; at present such plans are solely financed by employers.

The deal leaves sick pay intact; employers had wanted cutbacks.

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NASDAQ

Thursday's 3:45 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press

The Associated Press

NYSE

Thursday's 3:45 P.M.

(Continued)

WORLD ROUNDUP

NCAA Settles Suit With \$2.5 Million Payout to Tarkanian

COLLEGE BASKETBALL More than two decades after Jerry Tarkanian and the NCAA first locked horns, the coach formally settled the fight that left him battered but not beaten.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association said Thursday it would pay Tarkanian \$2.5 million to settle his suit claiming that the association had manufactured evidence against his basketball programs to try to run him out of coaching.

"The NCAA regrets the 26-year ongoing dispute with Jerry Tarkanian and looks forward to putting this matter to rest," the association's executive director, Cedric Dempsey, said.

The settlement in the seven-year-old suit came one month before it was to go to trial in Las Vegas, where Tarkanian coached for almost 20 years. Tarkanian contended that the NCAA had targeted his teams at Long Beach State and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. He is currently the head coach at Fresno State. "They screwed me, and they know they did," Tarkanian said, "but I would never give up. I was going to fight this forever if I had to."

* Investigators seized 51 videotapes from a former Fresno State basketball player's apartment after a report that one of the tapes may show him pointing a gun at a teammate, according to court records.

The seizure of the videotapes was part of an investigation into whether to charge Avondre Jones with threatening an acquaintance, Colin DeForest, with a gun and beating him with swords in Jones's apartment.

Jones and a recruit, Kenny Brunner, were arrested March 17, the day after Fresno State beat Memphis in the National Invitation Tournament. Both have denied the allegations. Jones was kicked off the team, and Brunner was placed on indefinite suspension.

(AP) **Sanchez Vicario Is Upset**

TENNIS Seventh-ranked Arantxa Sanchez Vicario was beaten by the unseeded and little-known Andrea Glass, 6-7 (7-5), 7-5, 6-2, on Wednesday at the Family Circle Cup in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Sanchez Vicario hadn't lost her first match at her previous nine Family Circles, and it didn't look like she would lose this one when she led 5-4 in the second set. But Glass, ranked 94th in the world, won nine of the final 11 games.

Clemens Leads Jays Past Minnesota, 3-2*He Shows Cy Young Form, Allowing 2 Hits**The Associated Press*

Roger Clemens, coming off his fourth American League Cy Young Award, allowed only two hits in seven innings while pitching the Toronto Blue Jays past the Minnesota Twins, 3-2, in the season opener for both teams.

A crowd of 41,387 in Toronto saw Tim Johnson win in his first game as a major league manager Wednesday night.

José Cruz Jr. hit a two-run homer in the second inning and an RBI triple in the fifth, and also singled. Randy Myers,

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Toronto's top off-season acquisition, pitched a scoreless ninth for a save.

Clemens, who won 21 games last year, gave up a single by Pat Meares and a double by Paul Molitor. He permitted one run, struck out three and walked three.

Johnson got his first glimpse at his bullpen tandem — Kelvin Escobar in the eighth, Myers in the ninth. Escobar gave up a home run to Brent Gates that trimmed the Toronto lead to 3-2. Myers did not give up any runs, but he was helped when Cruz made a fine running catch on one play, then survived a long foul ball into the second deck by Pat Meares before getting him on a grounder.

Orioles 11, Royals 1 Cal Ripken's eighth career grand slam capped a five-run first inning that lifted Baltimore past Kansas City — the Orioles' first victory under their new manager, Ray Miller.

Lenny Webster hit two solo homers, and Jeffrey Hammonds also had one for the host Orioles, whose five hits in the first inning matched their total in their opening day loss to the Royals.

Scott Erickson pitched a four-hitter for his 100th career victory. The right-hander struck out five and walked one to improve his major-league record to 100-83. It was his 31st career complete game.

The only run against Erickson came on a solo homer by Dean Palmer in the second.

Devil Rays 11, Tigers 8 In St. Petersburg, Florida, the expansion Devil Rays earned their first victory in team history, getting four RBIs from Fred McGriff.

McGriff doubled a run in the first inning, added an RBI single in a four-run fourth and capped the night with a two-run single in the eighth as Tampa Bay rebounded from an opening-day 11-6 loss to the Tigers.

Rollando Arrojo, a Cuban defector making his major league debut, worked six innings for the victory, allowing four runs on eight hits. The 29-year-old right-hander struck out six, walked one and committed a throwing error that allowed the Tigers a run in the first.

Red Sox 2, Athletics 0 Pedro Martinez made an impressive AL debut, striking out 11 in seven innings to lead Boston past host Oakland.

Last year's National League Cy

Young award winner with Montreal, Martinez allowed only three hits. It was exactly the kind of performance the Red Sox expected from the ace, whom they got in a trade and then signed to a \$75 million, six-year contract.

Indians 9, Mariners 7 In Seattle, Manny Ramirez hit two home runs, and Sandy Alomar doubled twice as Cleveland beat the Mariners, completing a two-game sweep.

David Segui hit two homers and drove in five runs for Seattle. It was his first two-home run game in the majors, and came in his second game since leaving Montreal to sign with the Mariners.

Angels 4, Yankees 1 Chuck Finley, on a 10-game winning streak when his season ended with an injury last August, pitched seven strong innings to lead Anaheim to victory over visiting New York.

Matt Walbeck snapped a scoreless tie with a two-run triple in the fourth inning. Gary DiSarcina doubled him home, then Darin Erstad singled to DiSarcina for a 4-0 lead.

Andy Pettitte, the loser, gave up nine hits, walked three and hit a batter. He pitched six innings after a 56-minute rain delay held up the start. Troy Percival pitched the ninth for his first save.

In the National League:

Padres 13, Reds 9 In Cincinnati, Joey Hamilton's rough start left San Diego down by five runs, but Greg Myers's bases-loaded double rallied the Padres to victory.

San Diego improved to 2-0 by pulling off a comeback that featured homers by Ken Caminiti and Steve Finley and a seven-run sixth inning highlighted by Myers's go-ahead double.

Cubs 10, Marlins 3 In Miami, Mark Clark struck out 11 in seven innings, and Kevin Orie drove in four runs — both career-highs — as Chicago earned its first victory of the year.

Clark allowed four hits and one run in seven innings.

Oric had RBIs with a single in the first, a double in the third, a homer off the left-field foul pole in the fifth and a scoring fly in the ninth.

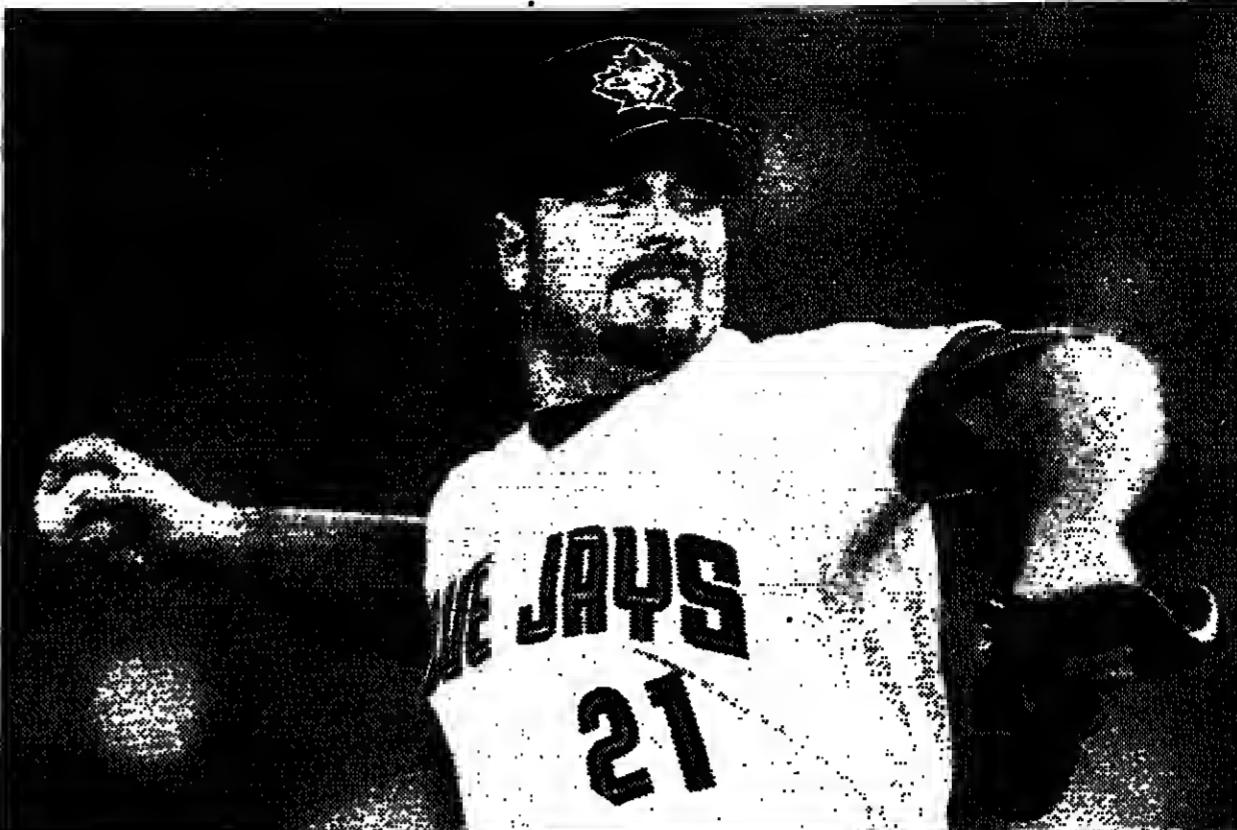
Pirates 4, Expos 0 Francisco Cordova and two relievers combined on a five-hitter, and Pittsburgh shut down host Montreal.

Tony Womack's two-run double highlighted a three-run seventh against loser Carlos Perez.

Cordova allowed only three hits, struck out five and walked two. Marc Wilkins pitched the eighth, and Loiselle took over to start the ninth.

Astros 7, Giants 6 In Houston, Brad Ausmus singled home the tying run and another run scored on a passed ball as Houston rallied in the eighth inning.

The comeback prevented Orel Hershiser from winning in his Giants debut. Charlie Hayes homered and drove in



Roger Clemens winding up to throw his first pitch of the season in Toronto's victory over the Minnesota Twins.

four runs for San Francisco.

The Astros trailed, 6-5, when Carl Everett singled off Rich Rodriguez to start the eighth. Ricky Gutierrez and Aymus singled against the losing pitcher, Julian Tavarez. With pinch-hitter Jack Howell at the plate, a passed ball by Brent Mayne allowed the go-

won a day after losing the season opener to the Giants, 9-4, in 13 innings.

Moises Alou hit a three-run homer off Hershiser — who left leading, 6-5, after six — and a wild pitch enabled another run to score as the Astros took a 4-0 lead in the first inning.

Rockies 6, Diamondbacks 0 In Phoenix, Vinny Castilla hit his third home run of the season, and John Thomas pitched eight strong innings as Colorado kept the expansion Arizona Dia-

mondbacks without a victory.

Dante Bichette drove in three runs with four hits, making him 8-for-10 in two games. Larry Walker scored three times and had two of Colorado's 16 hits.

Willie Blair (0-1), one of Arizona's several big-money free agents, allowed five runs and 12 hits in seven innings. Blair, however, broke his 0-for-41 slump at the plate when he singled in the third.

Baseball's 1998 Payroll: \$1,209,288,339

By Murray Chass
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Albert Belle, Gary Sheffield and Greg Maddux all have higher individual salaries for this season than the entire opening-day roster of the Montreal Expos. The Baltimore Orioles' payroll is nearly eight times that of the Expos. The Orioles' \$70 million payroll is also a whopping \$7 million higher than the New York Yankees' payroll, which is probably the most remarkable feat of all — any owner outspending George Steinbrenner by that much.

All of the payrolls add to a major league total of \$1,209,288,339, for an average player salary of \$1,437,917. The average at the end of last season was \$1,336,609, as figured by the Players Association.

These are some of the results that can be gleaned from opening-day payrolls, which for the most part continue to reach unprecedented highs. Except for teams like the Expos.

The low-revenue Canadian team finished last season with an \$18.4 million payroll and has sliced that in half, to \$9.2 million. Belle, with the Chicago White

Sox, and Sheffield, with the Florida Marlins, will both be paid \$10 million in salary this season. The Atlanta Braves are paying Maddux \$9.6 million.

The Expos have only two players earning more than \$550,000 — Rondell White at \$2 million and Carlos Perez at \$1.5 million. By contrast, the high-revenue Orioles have 12 players making more than White and 23 players earning more than \$500,000.

The Orioles' payroll of \$70,408,134 is the first to reach the \$70 million plateau. Not even the Yankees have been there. The Yankees opened this season at \$63,159,901, although other payments add significantly to their costs. They have paid a total of \$9.1 million in trades involving Chuck Knoblauch, Kirby Rogers and Charlie Hayes, and owe the Minnesota Twins an additional \$500,000 next year for Knoblauch.

Payrolls are computed in different ways for different reasons. The luxury tax payroll calculation determines the five teams that pay a tax at the end of the year. That computation is based on a team's entire 40-man roster, using salaries from one-year contracts and the average annual value of multiyear deals.

The opening-day payrolls, compiled from information given to agents and clubs, are based on this season's salaries and pro-rated shares of signing bonuses for players on the 25-man rosters and the disabled list. Using the latter method, the Yankees finished last season with the highest payroll, \$65 million, ahead of the Orioles' \$63 million. Now that the owner of the Orioles, Peter Angelos, has shown that he will not be outspent by Steinbrenner, he expects his team to produce the same results on the field.

The Florida Marlins spent extravagantly last year, determined to field a contending team that would lure fans to Pro Player Stadium. They won the World Series with a \$53.5 million payroll, but now have slashed it to \$33.4 million. The Marlins have more than twice as many players (nine) earning the \$170,000 minimum salary as the Expos (four).

The Cincinnati Reds are another team that has cut and slashed, right up until the eve of opening day, when they traded Dave Burba, their scheduled opening-day starting pitcher, and his \$2.8 million salary. The trade left the Reds, who finished last season at \$57 million, with a payroll of \$21,995,000.

A Sexier Slovakia: The Davis Cup Helps

Vantage Point/**CHRISTOPHER CLAREY**

BRATISLAVA, Slovak Republic — This capital city, as Slovaks are often reminded, is not Prague. There are no historic bridges spanning the river that flows nearby, no booming tourist industry to fill up coffers and cafés, and no immediate prospect of being invited to join the European Union.

This is the lesser half of the Czechoslovakia that split apart amicably on the first day of 1993: a landlocked place often confused with Slovenia by foreigners, and nearly as confused internally about what it hopes to become.

Filmmakers do know Slovakia, but that is because production costs, like the local economy, are negligible. Even when they film, they turn the country into something else. In "The Peacemaker," Bratislava was Vienna and Sarajevo. In an upcoming production, Slovakia's scenic Tatra Mountains will become the American west.

How then to put one's new nation on the radar screen?

"Sport is one way to get known," said Miloslav Mecir, the 1988 Olympic gold medalist in men's tennis who is probably the world's most recognizable living Slovak if you discount Martina Hingis, who spent only her first seven years here.

"There are so many new, little countries," said Mecir, now captain of the Slovak Davis Cup team that will host Sweden here beginning Friday in this year's first round. "I think it's quite difficult for people around the world to distinguish which is which. But I don't think any businessman has done so much for the country's image lately as our tennis players."

"People are really tired of bearing about politics here," said Jan Kroslik, who plays doubles with Mecir. "They never know what is coming next, and every time it's the same: all the scandals. They are trying to find something else that can make them happy. Sport helps people forget these things for a little while, and we try with our efforts to help them and help our families be happy."

The Czech half was always the much stronger tennis half in the years when Czechoslovakia was united, producing all-time greats like Jan Kodeš, Martina Navratilova and Ivan Lendl. When the nation split, the Czech Republic stayed in

the Davis Cup's elite World Group while the Slovaks had to start at the bottom. But after 11 victories and a single loss to Egypt, Mecir's team has climbed from Group III to the World Group.

The prime minister may make an appearance at the tie, but Sweden's top two singles players will not. The Swedes crushed the United States, 5-0, in last year's Davis Cup final, but Jonas Bjorkman is now out with a viral infection, and Thomas Enqvist is out with yet another injury, this one to his wrist. And then there is Nicklas Kulli, Bjorkman's regular Davis Cup doubles partner, who is home in Sweden celebrating the birth of his first child.

Kucera's first bloodless coup came when he and Karina Habsudova joined forces for Slovakia and won the Hopman Cup. Then Kucera proceeded to reach the semifinals of the Australian Open, upsetting Pete Sampras along the way. All of which helps explain why the 3,000-seat Kongresssaal Hall C with its freshly laid clay court is sold out for the next three days.

"People are really tired of bearing about politics here," said Jan Kroslik, who plays doubles with Mecir. "They never know what is coming next, and every time it's the same: all the scandals. They are trying to find something else that can make them happy. Sport helps people forget these things for a little while, and we try with our efforts to help them and help our families be happy."

Hageskog said: "To be fit is more important on clay than Davis Cup experience."

Perhaps, but Hageskog surely remembers that, only a year ago, France became the first defending champion to be eliminated from the Davis Cup in the first round. That happened in Sydney, but this year, in a much grayer and unlivelier place, Sweden could very easily suffer the same fate.

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2 Russians Lead Skating

Eldredge in 4th Place, Trailing Them and Weiss

By Amy Shipley
Washington Post Service

MINNEAPOLIS — Carrying a garbage bag filled with flowers and gifts from fans, the U.S. figure skater Todd Eldredge headed toward the Target Center exit, bracing for the near-freezing Minneapolis air. Meanwhile, across a lobby and a hallway at the world figure-skating championships, Michael Weiss walked toward a brightly lit interview area, followed by a group of reporters.

Weiss finished seventh at the Olympic Games and seventh at last year's world championships. In the last two U.S. championships, Weiss has finished in second place — behind Eldredge.

To win the title late Thursday, Eldredge would have to skate the best long program while Yagudin dropped to third or lower. For Weiss to win the gold, he would have to finish first in the long.

Though the men's field was thinned by the withdrawals of this year's Olympic medalists, the Russian leaders offer impressive credentials.

Yagudin, 18, regularly lands quadruple jumps — which neither Weiss nor Eldredge has done in competition. Yagudin, the world bronze medalist last year, said he replaced Kulik, who withdrew last weekend because of back trouble.

Before walking out the door,

Eldredge offered a couple of weak smiles when asked about his performance. "I'd be lying and kidding if I said I was happy where I am," Eldredge said. "I'm not."

With none of the Olympic medalists — Ilya Kulik, Elvis Stojko and Philippe Candeloro — at this event, Eldredge was the favorite. The fourth-place finisher in Nagano, Japan, Eldredge won the world title in 1996 and finished second behind Stojko last year.

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Before walking out the door,



Todd Eldredge gliding to fourth place during the short program at the figure skating championships.

yesterday because of a recent bout of food poisoning. During the Olympics, he blamed a case of flu for finishing fifth.

Plushenko, 15, is technically too young to compete here — skaters are required to be 16 — but he was allowed in because of his gold-medal finish at the world junior championships last year. He replaced Kulik, who withdrew last weekend because of back trouble.

Red Wings 2, Avalanche 1 Sergei Fedorov scored two third-period goals to give Detroit a victory at home.

Clinton Visits Slave Depot In Senegal

The Associated Press

GOREE ISLAND, Senegal. President Bill Clinton closed a 12-day tour of sub-Saharan Africa on Thursday by paying tribute to those who endured a passage to slavery on a

continent.

Clinton said in a speech to the descendants of some of Africa's slaves became their ancestors.

"I couldn't be happier with my position," Weiss said. "I've been right on Todd's heels in the last year or so. He's one guy I'm trying to beat before he turns pro. He's a great champion and a great guy to chase."

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Before walking out the door,

Hasek's 37 Saves Lead Sabres Over Kings

The Associated Press

Dominik Hasek made 37 saves and earned his league-leading 13th shutout to lift the Buffalo Sabres to a 4-0 victory over the Los Angeles Kings.

Donald Audette scored the first and last goals for host Buffalo on Wednesday night. Curtis Brown and Alexei Zhitnik had the other tallies.

Sharks 3, Penguins 2 Jeff Friesen scored on a shorthanded breakaway with 7:03 left in the third period to lead the visiting Sharks over Pittsburgh.

Red Wings 2, Avalanche 1 Sergei Fedorov scored two third-period goals to give Detroit a victory at home.

Blues 6, Leafs 4 In Toronto, Geoff Courtnall and Terry Lake each had a goal and an assist to lead St. Louis over the Maple Leafs.

Cannadiens 4, Panthers 3 The Canadiens scored two goals within 13

seconds in the third period to cap a comeback victory over host Florida.

Hurricanes 4, Devils 0 Trevor Kidd made 37 saves to post his first shutout of the season and visiting Carolina moved within a point of a playoff berth by defeating New Jersey.

Coyotes 5, Mighty Ducks 1 Keith Tkachuk had one goal and one assist as visiting Phoenix defeated Anaheim.

NHL ROUNDUP

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WEDNESDAY LINESCORES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

WEST DIVISION

CENTRAL DIVISION

PACIFIC DIVISION

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

ICE HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

ATLANTIC DIVISION

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

PACIFIC DIVISION

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

WEST DIVISION

CENTRAL DIVISION

PACIFIC DIVISION

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

CRICKET

SECOND ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL

WEDNESDAY IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

ENGLAND 260 60 60 105 50 105

West Indies 263 79 49 105

Five-match series is tied 1-1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

AMERICAN LEAGUE

WEST INDIES VS. KIRKLAND

WEDNESDAY IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

England 260 60 60 105 50 105

West Indies 263 79 49 105

Five-match series is tied 1-1.

CRICKET

THURSDAY IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

England 260 60 60 105 50 105

West Indies 263 79 49 105

Five-match series is tied 1-1.

CRICKET

THURSDAY IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

England 260 60 60 105 50 105

West Indies 263 79 49 105

Five-match series is tied 1-1.

CRICKET

FRIDAY IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

England 260 60 60 105 50 105

West Indies 263 79 49 105

Five-match series is tied 1-1.

CRICKET

SATURDAY IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

England 260 60 60 105 50 105

West Indies 263 79 49 105

Five-match series is tied 1-1.

CRICKET

SUNDAY IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

England 260 60 60 105 50 105

West Indies 263 79 49 105

Five-match series is tied 1-1.

CRICKET

MONDAY IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

England 260 60 60 105 50 105

West Indies 263 79 49 105

Five-match series is tied 1-1.

CRICKET

TUESDAY IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

England 260 60 60 105 50 105

West Indies 263 79 49 105

Five-match series is tied 1-1.

CRICKET

WEDNESDAY IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

England 260 60 60 105 50 105

West Indies 263 79 49 105

Five-match series is tied 1-1.

CRICKET

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England 260 60 60 105 50 105

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SUNDAY IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

England 260 60 60 105 50 105

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POSTCARD

Ugly Scientific Fracas

By Timothy Egan

New York Times Service

SEATTLE — One of the oldest and most nearly complete sets of human remains ever found in North America was given a face last month in a reconstruction by James Chatters, the anthropologist who first analyzed the find.

In clay flesh, the 9,300-year-old face of what is known as Kennewick Man looks like Patrick Stewart, the "Star Trek" actor. The anthropological casting has heightened an already bitter and muddled battle over the rights to Kennewick Man's remains and his origins. It is a battle that extends to questions of race and the origins of the first Americans.

While Kennewick Man's fate is determined in court, his remains are locked away, inaccessible to scientists who want to study him and Indians who want to bury him. But by giving a late-Pleistocene-era skull the face of late-20th-century British actor, some anthropologists say, Chatters has given a racial identification to something that has been said to defy racial categories.

As Alan Goodman, a professor of anthropology at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, put it, "Kennewick Man has become a textbook example of why race science is bad science."

When the bones were discovered in the summer of 1996 along the banks of the Columbia River, in southeastern Washington State, they electrified researchers. Virtually intact, with features described by some anthropologists as both European and Asian, Kennewick Man held the possibility of providing

answers to the many questions about how the Americas were peopled. But bones have been under lock and key as a three-way legal battle is fought out:

Researchers have sued to gain access to the bones for research.

The Umatilla Indians of the Columbia plateau say Kennewick Man is their ancestor. They have sued to get the remains so they can give them a proper burial.

And a California pagan group, the Asatru Folk Assembly, says Kennewick Man was a white ancestor to modern-day Europeans. The group has also sued so they can give the remains a burial using ceremonies of pre-Christian Norse worship.

White supremacists are among those who have used Kennewick Man to contend that Caucasians came to America well before Indians, and a group that monitors racist organizations has linked some members of Asatru with white-power groups. It denies those contentions.

Responding to reports of supremacists opposition to the Indian claims, some anthropologists have stepped up their criticism of the racial classification of Kennewick Man.

"The academic debate is one thing, but it's a whole other game to think about how this is being used politically," said Goodman, who has written articles in professional journals urging fellow researchers to reject making racial distinctions in archaeological finds.

As the debate and court case go on, researchers fear that their chances for further study are slipping away. All research was halted by the government 19 months ago, pending a resolution in the various claims.

Fighting Ireland's Demons With a Dark LaughBy Alan Riding
New York Times Service

DUBLIN — The Irish are such obsessive conversationalists that if they were not funny, they would probably be at one another's throats. On second thought, of course, they have been at one another's throats a fair bit, but they have still retained their sense of humor.

Unsurprisingly, given the successive traumas of Irish history, it is a dark sense of humor. But it has also proved immensely useful: In the pub and in literature, it has permitted the Irish both to mock and to celebrate their Irishness. Now, in Neil Jordan's new film, "The Butcher Boy," humor has become the ultimate instrument of survival.

"I think the trick is that you can get away with anything in Ireland if you're funny," said Patrick McCabe, who wrote the acclaimed novel of the same name that Jordan adapted for the screen. "If you hit people over the head with a stick, they get fed up. But if you're witty, you'll be O.K."

Not that humor has been absent from other recent Irish movies, but it has usually been used to leaven political dramas, as in Jordan's last film, "Michael Collins," about the hero of Irish independence. In contrast, "The Butcher Boy" looks at Ireland microscopically through the prism of a 12-year-old boy, Francie Brady, growing up in a small town in the early 1960s. Francie's life is a mess. He is also very funny. And like many of the Irish, he likes to tell his own story.

"It's a very dark film," Jordan conceded. "But what I reinforced was the insane incurable optimism of the central character. The more he makes you laugh, the more deeply you feel his tragedy, and that's because the more you like him. So this thing of laughter and savagery, laughter and savagery almost became the rhythm of the movie."

At first glance, of course, the story of Francie, played by Eamonn Owens, is anything but uplifting. His father, Benny (Stephen Rea), is a drunk, while Ma Brady (Aisling O'Sullivan) is sliding toward madness. But Francie and his best friend, Joe (Alan Boyle), live in their own fantasy world fed by comic books, television films and news broadcasts about the Cuban missile crisis, a world in which Francie walks tall, indifferent to gossip about his dysfunctional family.



Eamonn Owens, left, with Stephen Rea in Neil Jordan's "The Butcher Boy."

Indifferent, that is, until his pompous neighbor, Mrs. Nugent (Fiona Shaw), pronounces Benny Brady "no better than a pig." And with that, in the name of the Pig Family, Francie declares war on Mrs. Nugent and her geeky son, Phillip (Andrew Fullerton).

His first reprisal is to climb into Mrs. Nugent's home and write "Phillip Is a Pig" in lipstick on a wall, a gesture that promptly earns him a stint in reform school run by Roman Catholic priests. There he finds solace in visions of a sensual-looking Virgin Mary (Sinead O'Connor) and earns privileges by dressing up in girls' clothes to please one of the fathers.

When he is finally released, his mother has died, Joe has gone off to boarding school — with Phillip Nugent no less — and Francie is forced to work in a slaughterhouse. He tries to remain upbeat, but then his father dies and he is alone.

Blaming Mrs. Nugent for his troubles, Francie retreats further into his fantasy world until the logic of one final act of revenge against his nemesis seems irrefutable.

So is this Ireland?

"It is totally autobiographical in its mood," said McCabe, 43, who set his story in Clones in County Monaghan, near the border with Northern Ireland, where he was born and lived until he was 17 and where most of the film was shot. "The actual incidents are, of course, not autobiographical at all."

To Jordan, though, it was the book's mood that struck a familiar chord.

Although five years older than McCabe and reared in a middle-class, book-friendly home in Dublin, Jordan remembers the Ireland of the early 1960s as poor, introspective, dominated by the Catholic Church and still scarred by centuries of British rule. Even in the early 1970s, when Jordan joined other young Irish working as laborers in London, "we carried around a sense of inferiority almost like an overcoat," he said.

Today, in a land that is increasingly prosperous and self-confident, that Ireland is hard to discern.

"Francie's story could not happen now," Jordan, a stocky, dark-haired man, said over lunch in a restaurant in Dublin's Temple Bar district, the heart of the country's bustling

arts world. "It's definitely a portrait of things as they were in the 1960s. For one thing, there are few priests in schools nowadays. There's huge consciousness of the level of abuse that went on. A kid could not be ignored like that. There are child-care services now. But 'The Butcher Boy' is a very good account of how things actually were."

In that sense, then, the movie does fit into Irish cinema's attempt to probe aspects of Irish history and society that until recently no one dared to address because, in Jordan's words, "discussion of them was so politically loaded." This was certainly the case with the film about Michael Collins, who became a hero for fighting the British and was then murdered in the civil war that followed Irish Home Rule in 1922. In "The Butcher Boy," the Ireland of 35 years ago looks no more appealing, a reminder to today's youth of how bleak things were not so long ago.

What gives the book and the movie a certain universality, though, is that they penetrate the mind of a boy floating dangerously between imagination and reality. The imagination and reality may be rooted in Clones in the early 1960s, but a boy could be equally unbalanced by a mixture of pain and dreams anywhere in the world. It is his humor that is so distinctly Irish.

After his arrest, Francie asks if he will be hanged. "I'm sorry, Francie, but there's no more hanging," a policeman replies. "Seize! What's this country coming to?" Francis asks indignantly.

Jordan said he found it something of a relief not to be dealing head on with the perennial issues of Irish identity, with "the cross between politics and poetry," as he put it. McCabe in turn said he was only interested in recreating an imaginary world, not in denouncing the Catholic Church.

"There's nothing more tedious than Irish novelists banging on about the oppression of Catholicism," he said in a telephone interview from his home in Sligo. "I found Catholicism quite imaginative and a rich kind of interesting, particularly in that period. I always found it a kind of vast and exotic mine to chip away at and use in terms of imagery."

Jordan said he could not resist casting McCabe, as the boozy hobo Jimmy the Skite. "The beginning and end of my acting career, I would imagine," McCabe said dryly of his performance. "Brawling drunk, eh. I'm a great one for the stereotype."

PEOPLE

PRIVATE letters written by Diana, Princess of Wales, to her lover, James Hewitt, have been handed over to Kensington Palace after a woman tried to sell them to a tabloid newspaper, press reports said Thursday. Hewitt's fiancée, Anna Ferretti, tried to sell 62 handwritten letters to editors of The Mirror for £150,000 (\$250,000), saying she wanted to sell them before Hewitt did, the newspaper reported. The Mirror said that it agreed to pay Ferretti £1,000 in cash against the contract and that it never intended to publish the letters. The newspaper handed over the bundle to Kensington Palace, the princess's former home, with a formal letter promising not to publish or reproduce copies, according to The Mirror and two other tabloid newspapers.

Merce Cunningham and Paul Taylor are among six recipients of the Doris Duke Awards for New Work. The annual awards, which carry cash prizes from \$15,000 to \$100,000 and were established this year, are administered by the American Dance Festival in Durham, North Carolina. The other recipients are Elizabeth Streb, Nathan Birch, David Grenke and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. The festival also announced the winners of the Doris Duke Millennium Awards for Modern Dance and Jazz Music Collaborations, which will be given to six choreographers and six jazz composers over three years. The winners: for 1998, Pilobolus Dance Theater with Maria Schneider, and David Parsons with Phil Woods; 1999, Bill Jones with Fred Hersch, and Taylor with

a composer yet to be announced; 2000, Trisha Brown with Billy Taylor, and Martha Clarke with Randy Weston.

on the 84th birthday of the Nobel laureate Octavio Paz, who had chaired the jury.

A Tribute to Stockhausen

Agence France-Presse

PARIS — The French conductor Pierre Boulez has set up three tribute concerts of an experimental work by Karlheinz Stockhausen as part of events marking the German composer's 70th birthday this year.

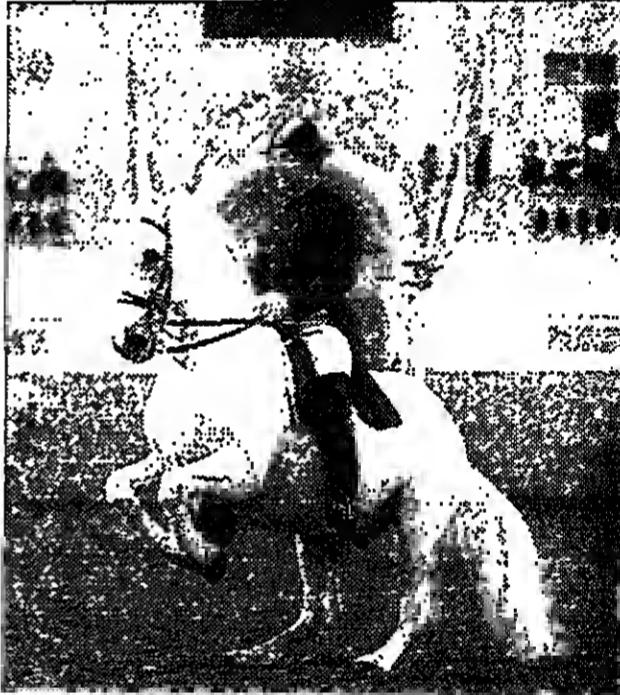
Boulez, Peter Eotvos of Hungary and the American conductor David Robertson are all conducting Stockhausen's "Gruppen" in Paris next week.

"Gruppen" is designed for three orchestras set around the audience and gives the impression of one piece of music moving from place to place. Each concert will feature two performances of "Gruppen" so the audience can change seats and appreciate a different sound effect.

President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro of Italy gave a medal Thursday to the designer Valentino for his achievements in the fashion industry and for promoting the prestige of the "Made in Italy" campaign all over the world.

Persistent cracking in Elvis Presley's Hollywood Walk of Fame star forced a jackhammer crew to remove it from the spot where it has been attracting fans for 38 years. The pink terrazzo base was replaced 16 months ago but it began deteriorating again. Until they figure out why, the Elvis star will be a few blocks west — next to the stylized gazebo featuring the actresses Dolores Del Rio, Anna May Wong, Dorothy Dandridge, Mae West and Marilyn Monroe.

New York City has turned down a request from a "Seinfeld" sponsor to host a private bash in the heart of the theater district the night of the last episode in May. "It would have created traffic problems of monumental proportions at the height of rush hour in one of the heaviest traveled areas of the city," said a spokeswoman for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Fuji Photo Film wanted to stage a party and a massive viewing of the May 14 show on the giant video screen overlooking Times Square.



SIT — A Lipizzaner of the Spanish Riding School getting a workout at the Hofburg palace in Vienna. (Photo: Peter Balazs/Reuters)



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